TRENTON

Old and New

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TRENTON, N.J.

Old and New

By HARRY J. PODMORE

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GOOGLE MARINE AND AVIATION CHARTS
OF
THE PACIFIC OCEAN

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Foreword

PROGRESS has constantly been invading the Colonial and Revolutionary towns of America until they have become unrecognizable. The tavern, where the gay gentlemen in periwigs and knickerbockers once gossipped with the stage driver and the post rider, has gradually given way to the modern hotel with conveniences then undreamed of. The village blacksmith shop is a memory, and in its place stands the gaudily-painted gasoline station with garage and repair shop in the rear. Old dwellings, with their large rooms and open fireplaces, are becoming a rarity. The plain meeting house or church, where those before us worshipped on rough-hewn benches and listened attentively to long discourses on the weaknesses of the flesh, has been entirely renovated. The grist mill crumbled away years after its paddle wheel ceased to turn. The placid mill pond disappeared with the removal of the dam and the waters of the once pretty stream that fed it are murky with industrial waste.

Trenton is one of these transformed communities. In Colonial and Revolutionary days it was a centre of life and trade—the main stopping place on the stage line running from New York to Philadelphia. Leading figures of those periods passed and repassed through its streets. In the history of the nation it has played no small part. It was the scene of two brilliant Revolutionary battles of General Washington's winter campaign of 1776-77. The Continental Congress met in the town in post war days. For a time it was favored for the permanent national capital. It was selected as the site for the capital of the State and during epidemics of yellow fever in Philadelphia, then the seat of government, it served twice in that capacity.

Vestiges of these days still linger. The narrow and crooked streets, landmarks, church graveyards and old structures partly hiding their identity behind modern construction are reminders of earlier life. How long these remnants of long ago will remain is, of course, a matter for speculation. Hardly a year passes that some building, the pride of past generations, is not replaced. These sites have stories to tell. Some are of national interest, and others purely local in significance.

The very life of Colonial, Revolutionary and post Revolutionary Trenton is embodied in these locations. The scene of Col. Rall's Christmas party was at a centre of town corner. At another corner the early governing body of the land met, the State Legislature held sessions, General Washington, Martha Washington, General Lafayette and other eminent persons were entertained. At nearby places the first railroad charter in America was granted, noted trials were held; Prince Lucien Murat, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, pawned the diamond bracelet of Hortense, Queen of Holland; Louis Kossuth, the famous Hungarian patriot, and President Franklin Pierce were dined. At further distances Col. Rall had his headquarters, President John Adams was entertained and the famous Goodyear vs. Day rubber case was tried. These are but a few of the many high lights of Trenton's rapidly-changing sites.

The purpose of this work is to preserve these historic associations. In a vastly changed city it was believed that this could best be accomplished by presenting the sites as they were and as they are today. The old and the new have been placed side by side and in consequence the interesting story of Trenton's development is unfolded.

The whole is the outgrowth of twenty-five articles published in "Trenton," the magazine issued under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce.

This volume is not by any means a history of Trenton. It is a sketch book on some of the many places of historical significance, covering the past and present.

The material for this book is the result of several years of collecting and research. Many of the pictures and drawings of scenes of former days are from the author's collection or loaned by friends. For valuable additional data the writer is indebted to William J. Harney, an indefatigable delver into the records of older Trenton. Works that have been consulted as well as the names of others who have furnished information are listed in the bibliography. For many suggestions in the revision of the original articles the writer is indebted to Alex Young Burslem and Leo A. Smith, and for making possible the publication of the work credit is due to Kenneth W. Moore.

HARRY J. PODMORE.

Trenton, N. J., December, 1927.

THE HISTORIC FIVE POINTS

"Things are where things are, and fate has willed
So shall they be fulfilled."

—Robert Browning

JUST six days prior to the Battle of Trenton, Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall, commander of the Hessian forces quartered in the village, accompanied by Captain Pauli, an army engineer, and other officers, made a survey of the site where Brunswick, Princeton and Pennington Avenues intersect with Broad and Warren Streets, for the purpose of placing a redoubt there to defend the northern end of the cantonment. The leader consented to have the spot fortified, but the project was never carried through, little realizing that the same site was soon to figure in his downfall. He considered the village safe from attack. To him the rebels were a miserable lot. All warnings were unheeded by the headstrong commander.

Then came the battle. Rall, out of a deep slumber and stupor from the festivities of the Christmas night at the home of Abraham Hunt, awoke to the rattle of musketry. Hurriedly dressing, he rushed to the street and endeavored to rally his panic-stricken troops. But it was too late. The two divisions of the Continentals had hemmed in the village and their artillery, planted on the site the Hessian leader had neglected to fortify, was raking the two main highways with cannon fire. In the course of minutes the battle was over—a most timely and brilliant victory had been won.

From times remote the site where the Continental artillery opened fire on the Hessian cantonment has served as the great northern gateway of travel to Trenton. For many years it was considered the northern end of the village. Under the influence of traffic over the highways, a little community, with its quaint dwellings, shops, and taverns came into existence.

Following the close of the Revolution, this little community seemed to have had a marked growth. In the year of 1792 it

had become an established centre for upper-country trade.* With this growth, it acquired the name of "Head of Town", an appellation by which it is known even today.†

THE FIVE HIGHWAYS

At the time of the early settlement of the community, the stretch of the highway now known as Brunswick Avenue was

THE GATEWAY SITE, 1776
Reproduced from an old print

a part of the old Maidenhead Road (now Lawrence Road), leading through Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville) to Prince Town (now Princeton). Princeton Road was then only a lane running to the Beakes' plantation about a quarter of a mile north of the corners. The Pennington Road was designated as the Pennington-Hopewell Road running to Queenstown (later Penny Town, now Pennington) and Hopewell. Following the opening in 1804 of the Brunswick Road as a straight highway to New

* "History of Trenton," by F. B. Lee.
† The North Trenton section is the outgrowth of the "Head of Town" community.

Brunswick at a point above Mulberry Lane (now Mulberry Street) and the incorporating of the Beakes' Lane as a part of the Princeton Pike a few years later, the site where the three highways converge with the two streets became known as the "Five Points."

This gateway site at the "Five Points" has been a silent witness to the activities of man in the making of Trenton. It has witnessed the gradual evolution of locomotion from the days of the Indian, who silently passed by on his way to the Falls of the Delaware, to the present day of swiftly moving aeroplanes

THE GATEWAY SITE, 1855

Reproduced from a sketch published in "Ballou's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion," a Boston periodical of 1855. The Battle Monument stands today on the site of the structure shown in the centre of the picture. The building to the left of it with signboard on a post at the front, is Lamb Tavern, later known as the Bull's Head. Evidently, the rear part of the tavern was at one time the pottery of Joseph McCully, the elder.

flying high above en route to New York or Philadelphia. Through these portals came the early Dutch trader with heavy pack, the stage coach and lumbering freight wagon, the traveling preacher spreading the Gospel along the countryside, the gay traveler seeking fields anew, and the post rider with precious news that patriot blood had been spilled on the village green at Lexington or that Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown. Later there passed the canal barge and then the snorting locomotive on its way to north Jersey cities and towns.

With the creation of the famous Lincoln highway through these portals came the auto tourists followed by trains of motor trucks.

Every person of prominence who visited Trenton prior to and for some time after the Revolution passed through this gateway in entering or leaving the town. William Edmundson, the Friend, passed through it in 1667; Peter Kalm, the Swedish naturalist, in 1748; George Whitfield, the celebrated Methodist preacher, in 1754, and Benjamin Franklin in 1757. Then in 1775, came the majestic figure of a young Virginia rifleman on his way to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to take command of the Continental Army and at the same place fourteen years later he bid the town farewell while on his journey to New York City to become the first Chief Executive of our land. Thomas Paine, patriot and noted writer of Revolutionary days, whose timely words stirred the ragged soldiers on to action in the Battle of Trenton, journeyed through these portals in 1803.

Other notable figures who made up this procession of the years were Washington Irving, Samuel Adams, John Adams, John Hancock, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Captain John Paul Jones, Elkanah Watson, Richard Henry Lee, Lord Cornwallis, General Sir William Howe, Aaron Burr, Martha Washington, James Monroe, General Charles Colesworth Pinckney, Marquis de Chastellux, Duke de la Rochefoucault, Duke of Saxe Weimar, J. B. Brissot de Warville, General Lafayette, and President Andrew Jackson.

At the time of the Battle of Trenton there stood at the gateway site the dwelling of Thomas Case, a Revolutionary soldier, according to General Stryker's sketch of Trenton in 1776-77. This home is believed to have been the same that was later converted into shops for blacksmithing and wheelwrighting. For a number of years James S. Robinson operated the blacksmithing enterprise. Later the building was demolished and upon its site was erected a brick carriage factory, held by Jacob S. Valentine, son-in-law of Mr. Robinson. In 1891 the carriage shop was demolished to make room for the Battle Monument.

Just south of the site of the Battle Monument across Brunswick Avenue which then continued on through to Warren Street, stood old Lamb Tavern, known in later times as the "Bull's Head." For many years this was the most popular hostelry at

the "Head of Town," and nearby it stood the festooned archway under which the noted Lafayette passed in making his entrance to the town on September 25, 1824.

THE GATEWAY SITE, 1891

Reproduced from a photograph taken March 31, 1891. The Battle Monument stands on the site of the building in the foreground.

The tavern faced on Warren Street. The front part of it was brick. The rear part, of rough stone construction, was originally a separate building, and in all probability, once was the pottery of Joseph McCully, the elder. This pottery came into the possession of Jacob Hester, another pioneer potter, who for a long time was the proprietor of Lamb Tavern.

Lamb Tavern was demolished at the time the Battle Monument was being erected. Among its other proprietors, in addition to Jacob Hester, were Isaac Hester, Patrick Convery, Xavier Meyer, Henry Spencer and Jacob Gettler. The site of the hostelry is today a part of Monument Park.

A NOTEWORTHY MEMORIAL

The Battle Monument, a worthy memorial in commemoration of one of the most famous battles in history, stands at the gateway site today.

The column of the memorial is hollow-fluted and of granite construction. The pedestal, which supports the column, is partly of the same material and partly of darker stone to give more apparent solidity to the base. The style of the memorial is that known as Roman-Doric.

Atop the column of the monument is a cap, forming an observatory accessible by means of an electric elevator. From this observatory thousands of tourists yearly obtain an excellent view of Trenton and the scenes of the battle. Encircling the column, just above the cap, thirteen electric lights shed their radiance by night, symbolic of the thirteen original states.

Surmounting the granite work of the memorial is a bronze figure of General Washington as he appeared at the opening of the engagement with extended right hand directing the fire of the Continental artillery down King Street, now Warren Street. The great leader is represented in the uniform of a Continental general officer, being an exact reproduction of the one worn by him at Trenton. The figure is thirteen feet high.

On the east, west and south sides of the base of the pedestal are three bronze reliefs, depicting respectively, "The Surrender of the Hessians," "The Continental Army Crossing the Delaware River" and "The Opening of the Battle." The last-named relief shows the battery of Alexander Hamilton about to fire down King Street. These reliefs were presented by the people of the State of Connecticut, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New York.

On the north side of the pedestal is a bronze tablet presented by the Society of the Cincinnati in New Jersey.

Guarding the entrance at the doorway of the monument stand two bronze figures of Continental soldiers. One is the statue of Private John Russell, of the Fourteenth Regiment of the Continental line, organized in Massachusetts by Colonel John Glover, and the other statue is modeled after a likeness of Private Blair McClenachan, of the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop.

AT THE GATEWAY SITE TODAY
The Trenton Battle Monument

Both of these patriots were members of military bodies that participated in the battle.

The corner stone of the Battle Monument was laid Saturday, December 26, 1891, the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the Battle of Trenton. The base and pedestal were erected in the spring of 1892. The capstone was raised into position Saturday, August 31, 1893, and the statue of General Washington was placed atop of the shaft Tuesday, September 5, of the same year. The memorial was dedicated with elaborate ceremonies October 19, 1893, the one hundred and twelfth anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va.

THE STACY POTTS HOUSE

HIER Liegt der Oberst Rall, mit ihm ist alles all! ("Here lies Colonel Rall, with him all is over!") was the epitaph written for Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall, the commander of the Hessian forces at Trenton, following his death from wounds sustained in the engagement of December 26, 1776. These words were penned by one of his beloved soldiers, Lieutenant Carl Andreas Kinen, but they were never cut into stone. The brave, but head-strong leader, sleeps in an unidentified grave in the enclosure of the First Presbyterian Church on East State Street, according to a local tradition.

Colonel Rall died on December 27 at the commodious house of Stacy Potts, on King Street, now Warren Street, where he made his headquarters upon coming to Trenton. It was there that General Washington and General Greene visited the dying soldier at the close of the victory, the former taking the parole of the Hessian commander and offering words of consolation before leaving.

RICHARD HENRY LEE'S RESIDENCE

After the stirring days of the Revolution, the Stacy Potts House again figured in history. This time it served as the official residence of Richard Henry Lee, President of the Continental Congress, then in session at Trenton. When General Lafayette arrived here to bid that body farewell, it is presumed that he was the guest of President Lee at the official residence. Sometime after the departure of Congress from Trenton, the Stacy Potts House was made a tavern. Years later it became established as the "City Hotel."

Early in November, 1798, General Charles Colesworth Pinckney, ambassador to France, visited Trenton. The distinguished patriot was tendered a reception at the "City Hotel," which was attended by the mayor, other city officials, and heads of the government departments, according to an item in the *Federalist*.

James Ewing, executive of Trenton, made the address of welcome to which the guest replied.

From 1800 to the time it closed its doors, the hostelry was the scene of many gatherings and meetings. In February, 1803, the question of uniting the waters of the Delaware and Raritan rivers by a canal, was discussed at a meeting of citizens held there. James C. Martin, painter of portraits and miniatures, made the place his temporary headquarters in November, 1808. The State Bank opened its books for subscriptions at the "City Hotel" in February, 1812.

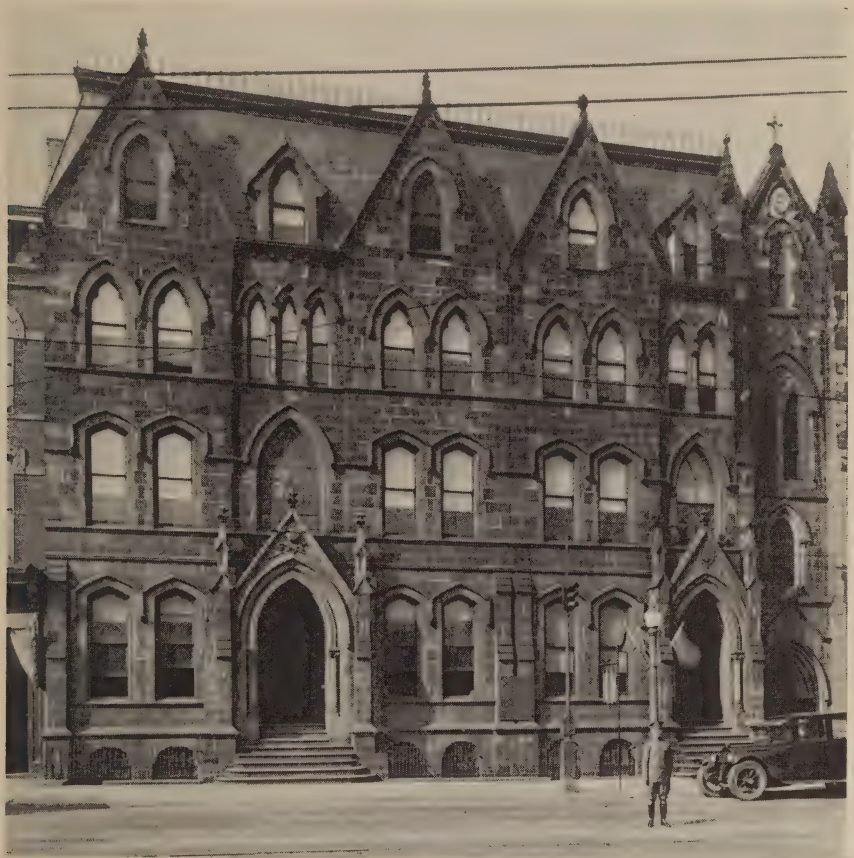
THE STACY POTTS HOUSE
Headquarters of Colonel Rall

For several years, the old building was a boarding house, with John Mount, Jr., as one of the keepers. In 1838, the place was reopened as a tavern. The occasion was announced in an advertisement in the *New Jersey State Gazette,* December 28, 1838, as "Once More Revived" and open for business under the name of the "Trenton City Hotel" with John Van Fleet as the proprietor.

EARLY SHOWMAN

The "City Hotel" had other attractions aside from the liquid refreshments that were dispensed in its tap-room. "A Great Natural Curiosity—Shark or Sea Serpent, 8 feet, 9 inches long, caught in the Delaware, 8 miles above Trenton, admittance 12½ cents, children half price," is advertised as being on exhibition at John Van Fleet's, in the *Emporium & True American,* August 7, 1840.

Three years after the so-called monster of the deep had been exhibited at the place, the "Merry Andrew," "Dan" Rice, together with "Yankee Sampson" (Mr. Canfield), and the "learned" pig, were advertised to perform in the yard of the same tavern. The advertisement of this show was published in the *State Gazette,* July 26, 1843.



THE TABLET MARKING THE LOCATION OF THE HOUSE IN WHICH RALL DIED IS BETWEEN THE CATHEDRAL RECTORY AND THE OFFICES OF THE TRENTON DIOCESE SHOWN ABOVE

SOME OF THE PROPRIETORS

Stacy Potts, owner of the place for a number of years, was a prominent resident of Trenton. He was also the owner of the tanyard in the rear. In July, 1853, the property came into the possession of Dr. Jacob Quick. In 1865 the site was purchased from Dr. Quick by the Catholic authorities.

Some of the proprietors of the tavern, in addition to those already named, were: John Anderson, Peter Howell, Scott & Herbert, Widow Harvey, Richard Davis, Hannah Herbert, Nicholas Bendel and Samuel Heath.

THE BUILDING RAZED

In June of 1857 the building was demolished. Its passing is cited in the following item published in *The State Gazette,* June 12, 1857:—

> "A Revolutionary Relic—Workmen are now engaged in demolishing the house in Warren Street opposite Perry, long known as the City Hotel. This house is probably over a hundred years old, and at one time of the Revolution was one of the largest and most elegant houses in town. It was occupied by Col. Rahl, the commander of the Hessians, and was his headquarters at the time of the Battle of Trenton. It bears many marks of that combat in the shape of bullet holes and marks in the weather-boards, and tradition relates that a Hessian officer was shot through one of the windows while shaving himself. The window with the bullet hole through the glass is preserved by Dr. Quick, the owner of the home."

The *Gazette* then reprints from its issue of January 10, 1785, a description of the place which was advertised at that time for rent:—

> "To be let until the first day of November next and may be entered immediately, the House wherein Stacy Potts lately lived in Trenton which was taken for the use of the President of Congress, and is now vacant by his removal.
>
> "The house is two stories high, spacious and elegant, having three rooms with fireplaces, besides a large dining

room with two fireplaces on the lower floor, five rooms on the second floor, a large convenient kitchen, a cellar under the whole, a pump at the door, a convenient lot with a stream of running water through it and an excellent garden—a stable sufficient to contain eight horses, with room for hay to keep them, may be had with it.

"For terms inquire of the subscribers,

Moore Furman,
Conrad Kotts,
James Ewing."

St. Mary's Cathedral rectory and the offices of the Trenton Diocese (formerly the Episcopal residence) now occupy the site of the Stacy Potts House.

THE PONTIUS D. STILLE HOUSE

SOME of the most severe fighting at the Battle of Trenton was along what is now Warren Street, near St. Michael's Church.

At the southeasterly corner of Warren and Perry Streets there stood, until a few years ago, the Central House property, a building of no little significance in local Revolutionary history. Although the place underwent a number of changes, it still embodied a good portion of its original outlines when it was demolished.

Here was the dwelling of Pontius D. Stille.* In this house was the headquarters of the watch guard for the Hessians before the Battle of Trenton.

In it was billeted the headquarters company of Col. Rall, commander of the Trenton cantonment, whose own quarters were in the Stacy Potts House that stood on the opposite side of the street. At the front of the dwelling in the middle of Warren Street were planted several Hessian cannon, and in the capturing of one of these guns, Captain William Washington, a relative of the great leader, and Lieutenant James Monroe, afterwards President of the United States, were wounded. Between the house and the original St. Michael's P. E. Church, which was utilized by the mercenary troops as a stable, ran an alley connecting the two main thoroughfares of the village—King and Queen (now Warren and Broad) Streets.

In this alley some of the Hessians sought shelter from the fire of the Continental artillery stationed at the "Five Points," and through it the brave Col. Rall, mortally wounded, was carried to his headquarters.

Apparently the Pontius D. Stille House dated back a number of years before the Revolution. The following extract concerning the site is from an article by John J. Cleary published sometime ago in the *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser:*—

*A one Pontius D. Stille was the first treasurer of the City of Trenton.

"The site at the southeast corner . . . has a history antedating the Revolutionary War. The New Jersey Archives of 1763 contain an advertisement over the signature of Mary Beadels, offering the property at public vendue on the eleventh of April of that year. Mention is made that Pontius Stille was then the occupant but a more

SOUTHEAST CORNER WARREN AND PERRY

interesting fact is stated, namely, that the house 'has been a well frequented tavern constantly kept up for above thirty years past.'

"This would take its history back nearly two hundred years from our time. Just when the house incorporated in the structure now standing was erected does not appear. It is described in the Archives of 1763 as of two stories, with stabling, etc. . . ."

Others who were early owners of the place were William Plaskett, William Plasket, Jr., Joseph Clunn, Dr. William Bryant

and Ratchel Stille. After the death of Ratchel Stille, the property came into the possession of Joseph Brumley who offered it for sale in an advertisement published in *The Federalist & New Jersey State Gazette,* September 16, 1799. The advertisement describes the property as being two stories high, 63 feet frontage, two separate cellars, a good room on each side of

THE SAME CORNER 1925
(The building has since been razed)

the entrance, a kitchen and six chambers, two rooms in front suitable for stores, a passageway for wagons running under a part of the building, pump in the rear, cistern, pump, garden, good stable and a chairhouse. At this time Brumley operated an iron mongery shop in one of the large front rooms on the first floor. Another part of the building seems to have been occupied by a cabinet maker. Some others who conducted businesses there were: Gilbert Brown, brushmaker, 1802; Foster

Hart, shoemaker, 1804; Samuel Paxon, dry goods and medicine merchant, 1806; publisher's office of the *Federalist,* 1807; P. Smiley, dry goods merchant, 1809; Peter Parrish, tobacco manufacturer, 1814; Samuel Paxon, hardware and cutlery merchant, 1815; Richard Burdsall, Jr., baker, 1816.

The family of William Potts owned the building for many years. In 1826 and probably earlier, Mr. Potts conducted a leather business there and subsequently it became his residence. He was a member of the Potts family which was identified with the local tanning industry. The Potts' came from England with Mahlon Stacy and these two families intermarried.

The building was purchased by Newton A. K. Bugbee, who had it razed in 1926. Mr. Bugbee then presented the land to St. Michael's P. E. Church in memory of his mother, Mrs. Lucy Kendall Bugbee, who died January 29, 1926.

THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

JUST a stone's throw from the King's Highway in a little settlement of less than one hundred dwellings stands a small unpretentious meeting house. It lies under the shadows of an apple orchard at the end of a narrow path. Among the buildings of the village it stands in contrast with the grey, sombre-walled courthouse and jail. Back from the rumble of the stage wagon and remote from the humming of the grist mill along the stony-bedded creek, the peace-loving Friend goes to this quiet spot for worship. And through its plain old doors pass generations of worshipers.

This is the Friends Meeting House at the corner of East Hanover and North Montgomery Streets. The settlement referred to is the Free Borough Town of Trenton, then a flourishing village for trade at the head of sloop navigation on the Delaware, exercising its powers and privileges under a Royal Charter of Incorporation granted by His Majesty King George, the Second. In addition to this, it was the seat of Hunterdon County where the courts held session. And here twice a year fairs were held which attracted a varied population from the countryside.

It is true that the old Meeting House has undergone some changes itself since the time of its erection in 1739, but the greatest changes have been those it has witnessed. The once little settlement has enveloped the edifice and the shadows of modern buildings have taken the place of those cast by the orchard. The quiet spot, which later became known as the corner of Third Street and Quaker Lane, is now one of Trenton's busy traffic corners—Hanover and Montgomery Streets. The King's Highway is still a notable line of travel and is called Broad Street. During the periods of development it has borne the names of Queen and Greene Streets. The grist mill passed away years ago. The creek of stony bottom—once the beautiful Assunpink, with shady nooks and placid mill pond—has dwindled to a slowly purring stream. Picturesque Colonial Trenton is no more.

The Friends' Meeting House is one of the very few landmarks of Trenton today representative of the period when Trenton was a Free Borough Town. It stands as a connecting link between the past and present, and is also a reminder of the eventful days of 1776-77—dark and trying days and days of victory marked by the Battles of Trenton, Assunpink and Princeton. Under its roof the British Dragoon in 1776 and the patriot

THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, HANOVER AND MONTGOMERY STREETS

soldier in passing through Trenton to points in Jersey each in turn found shelter. Here also was held a meeting of the convention of New Jersey province. In the little burying ground adjoining the edifice, sleep a number of persons, prominent in their day: Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, Chief Burgess of the Free Borough Town of Trenton; Colonel Lambert Cadwalader; General Philemon Dickinson, head of the New Jersey militia of Revolutionary days; George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; members of the Potts, Hillman and Redman families; the ancestors of the late Dr. Charles C. Abbott, famous archæologist of this section; and others whose names are identified with early history.

The Friends Meeting House has been occupied as a place of worship since the time of its erection. When the differences arose between the followers of Elias Hicks and the Orthodox members, resulting in a separation, the latter left the place and for a time worshipped in the Methodist Meeting House that stood at the northeast corner of Broad and Academy Streets. Later they erected a place of worship on Mercer Street.

THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE AS IT IS TODAY

THE METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

BEFORE the outbreak of the Revolution, four denominations had erected houses of worship in Trenton. The first three to establish themselves were the Presbyterians, Friends and Episcopalians. Later the Methodists organized a congregation and sought a place for the conduct of services. This denomination had already gathered a number of adherents to its faith largely under the leadership of Joseph Toy. Toy was a convert of a traveling officer-preacher, Captain Thomas Webb, who had preached here and had also done some missionary work in the town.

In looking about for a place, the Methodists selected the site at the northeasterly corner of what is now Broad and Academy Streets. Upon this site a frame meeting house was erected. This little edifice sheltered part of a Hessian artillery detachment at the time of the engagement and it was here that Col. Rall, the Hessian commander, was taken when he was mortally wounded in battle.

The first annual conference of Methodists in New Jersey was held in Trenton in 1789 and evidently this affair was conducted in the meeting house. The conference was opened Saturday, May 23. "It was opened in great peace. We labored for a manifestation of the Lord's power and it was not altogether in vain," said Bishop Asbury, commenting on the event. The Trenton Circuit at that time included Trenton, Pemberton, Mt. Holly, Burlington and Monmouth. This was enlarged in 1817 and in 1818 Trenton was made a station with a membership of two hundred and fifty.

A joint meeting of the State Legislature was held in the building in May and June, 1779, according to General Stryker's monograph, *Trenton, One Hundred Years Ago.*"

The Methodist Society, which sponsored the meeting house, was formed in 1771 and consisted of about nineteen members. Among them was John Fitch, of steamboat fame, whose little

commercial craft traveled on the Delaware seventeen years before Robert Fulton's so-called first steamboat, "The Clermont," plied the waters of the Hudson. The first trustees of the church were James Emerson, Conrad Kotts, Robert Singer, Joseph Toy, George Ely, Alexander Car, Jacob Link, Richard Sause and Lambert Wilmore.

THE FIRST AND SECOND MEETING HOUSES

In 1806 the corner changed. The frame building was demolished and in its place was erected a larger and more substantial one of brick. This church was called "Bethseda." It was sold in 1838 to the Orthodox Friends when the Methodists removed to their new building known as the Greene Street Methodist Church, which stood on the site of the present First Methodist Church on South Broad Street.

While the courthouse was being erected at Flemington, the Hunterdon County Freeholders met in the edifice. The rental fee for the use of the house was $50. In 1851 the property was enclosed by a neat brick wall. In 1858 the Friends moved to their new meeting house on Mercer Street. For a short time a public school held sessions in the building. May, 1859, saw the school moved to Temperance Hall and by June 1, the work of demolishing the edifice was completed. In the graveyard ad-

joining the building a number of pioneer residents of Trenton were buried. Some of the bodies were removed in the spring of 1849 when the yard was being leveled.

THE SAME CORNER—(1925)

The northeast corner of Broad and Academy Streets and the adjacent neighborhood was identified with Methodism in Trenton for a long period of years. In the vicinity, Captain Webb preached the doctrines of Wesley in a stable in 1766 and years afterwards, a short distance east along Academy Street, stood the old plank Methodist meeting house, known locally as the plank church for reason of its construction.

In 1859 a store building was erected upon the site. The building was occupied by Forst and Taylor, wholesale grocers, and later by the establishment of Elwood, Minor H. and George C. Ivins trading under the name of Ivins Brothers, grocers and commission dealers. For a number of years one of the Lehman and Company Grocery stores was conducted at this corner. Later Smith Brothers Company, furniture dealers occupied the place. Stern & Company, furniture dealers, are now located there.

THE CORNER WITH A CHRISTMAS STORY

TIME has brought about a great change to the site now occupied by the Trenton Banking Company at the northwest corner of North Warren and West State Streets. In fact, three distinct transformations have taken place here within the past 40 years. With a record, as a business mart, dating back to Colonial days, this location may well lay claim to having witnessed the growth of Trenton's first "town centre of trade" from the days of a hamlet to the flourishing city of the present. Here stood the dwelling and general store of Abraham Hunt, merchant prince of Trentontown. Nearby stood the City Tavern, where the important meetings of the city and State were held; the Hunterdon County Courthouse and jail; the early street market and the original town pump, each contributing its part to the city's early centre of activity.

It was under the roof of the Hunt house that an important incident of Revolutionary history took place. It was here that Abraham Hunt's commercial activities worked hand in hand for the cause of liberty, serving as a means toward the winning of a famous victory. This victory was the Battle of Trenton, a timely Christmas gift to a struggling nation.

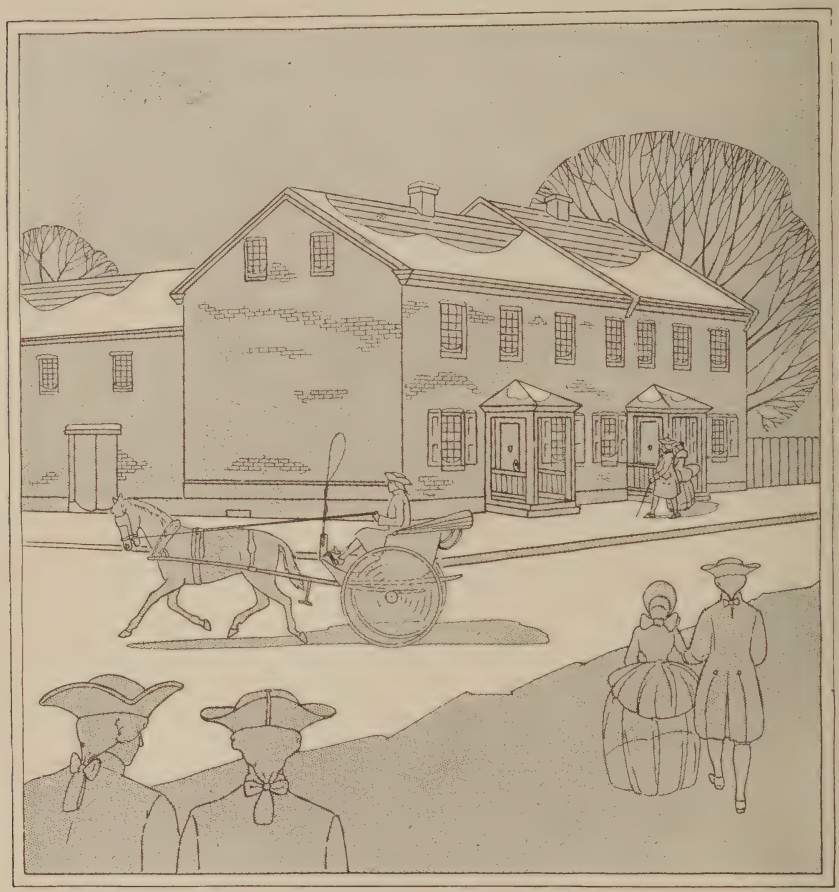
Were these endeavors of Hunt the putting into operation of the plans of General Washington? Or, were these endeavors which facilitated the capture of the Hessians just coincidental? While both questions offer food for thought, we are led to believe that Hunt was altogether unaware of the designs of the great leader. Whichever version is true, one thing is certain, Hunt played the role of a powerful agent for the patriot cause.

Aside from all tradition and all assumption, records tell us that the dwelling and general store of Abraham Hunt, corner of Second and King Streets, figured in a noteworthy Revolutionary incident. So we may well name this site "The Corner With a Christmas Story."*

*Probably the first merchant at this corner was Joseph Reed. His son, Andrew Reed, father of General Joseph Reed, was appointed postmaster of Trenton in 1734.

Some of those who followed Abraham Hunt as shopkeeper at the corner were: Wesley P. Hunt, George Kinney, William Miller, West & Cole, William W. Norcross. In the early 1840's Charles Howell conducted "The Washington House" there. The Hunt building was demolished in 1884.

History tells us that when the Hessians were stationed at Trenton, General Washington, who with his little band of



From a drawing by George R. Podmore.
Used by courtesy of the Trenton Banking Company.

THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF STATE AND WARREN STREET IN 1776—THE CORNER WITH A CHRISTMAS STORY

patriots, was encamped on the Pennsylvania shore, was well informed of the doings in the enemy lines. The Battle of Trenton was a well-planned and timely stroke. The great leader had means of communication—a means commonly used in warfare —spies. Perhaps, the most famous of these was John Honey-

man who lived in Somerset county. He was noted for his cunningness and keen observation. Honeyman, disguised as a butcher, made a number of visits to Trenton and reported what he saw here and perhaps many other things it was impossible for him to see or know.

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THE SAME CORNER IN THE 1860's

Was Honeyman in touch with Abraham Hunt, who at that time was a Tory in the eyes of his townsmen? This is a question that will probably never be answered. While there is no proof that the two worked together in securing information, yet there seems to have been all the opportunity for such to have taken place. However, Honeyman, known as the notorious Tory butcher, purposely wandered from the town a few days before the battle and was captured along the river road by several soldiers of the patriot army. He was brought before the great leader and held for court martial the following morning. As to what actually transpired between Honeyman and General Wash-

ington is another mystery, but there was no court martial for the spy in the meantime had vanished from the log hut where he was confined for the night. His mysterious escape and his return to Trenton with the greatly exaggerated information con-

FROM 1885 TO 1918 THE MASONIC TEMPLE STOOD ON THIS SPOT

cerning the conditions of the patriot army, all planned by the master brain of Washington, is a matter of history. And here begins the story.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

It is Christmas night—the eventful Christmas night of December 25, 1776. Snug and warm in Trentontown are quartered the mercenary Hessians, celebrating the occasion in true old-time German style. Col. Johann Gottlieb Rall, the Hessian commander of the cantonment, is being royally entertained at the

home of Abraham Hunt. He is busily engaged in testing the best wines the village can afford. He imbibes the delicious spirits between each hand of cards and as the clock on the wall ticks drowsily on, the brain becomes stupified. There is a loud

THE TRENTON BANKING COMPANY NOW STANDS ON "THE CORNER WITH A CHRISTMAS STORY"

knock. The negro servant opens the door. It is a Tory messenger, probably one of the notorious Doane brothers with a most timely message that the Rebels are crossing the Delaware. It is Christmas time—the time that comes but once a year, and accordingly the card game cannot be interrupted. The honored guest places the unread message in his pocket. It is Christmas time! On with the jollification! There sits the great commander in the height of his glory, unaware that fate has allotted to him but a few more hours to live. On with the festivities in Trentontown! It is Christmas time!

A VICTORY IS WON

The scene changes. It is the morning after. The thrilling words of Thomas Paine "These are the times that try men's souls" have inspired the disheartened patriots. A glorious victory has been won.

There is sorrow in the enemy ranks, Rall lies mortally wounded in his headquarters in King Street. The law of balance has worked. Joy is in the patriot army and in the hearts of the residents of Trentontown. There is a twinkle in the eye of Abraham Hunt. The so-called Tory sits quietly in his home at the corner of Second and King Streets. He has nothing to say for he is a non-committal man. The story of the battle is known to every student of American history—it is written deep in the chronicles of America and need not be repeated here.

THE YEARS ROLL BY

It is the year of 1885. Abraham Hunt has been in his grave for more than sixty years, but his former property at Trenton's early "centre of trade," with its Revolutionary lore, has just been recently demolished. In its place stands the new Masonic Temple, a building of fine architecture. The old stores have passed away and new business established.

It is the year 1927. The Masonic Temple is gone and on its site stands the imposing structure of the Trenton Banking Company—the home of the first banking institution. The big things of one generation are the common things of the next.

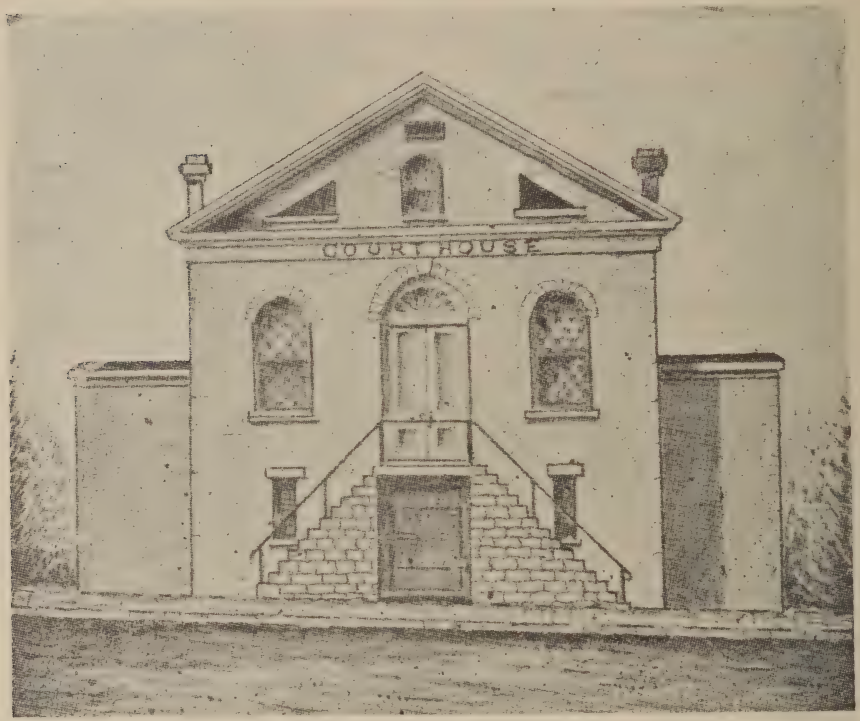
THE HUNTERDON COUNTY COURT HOUSE AND JAIL

MORE than a hundred and fifty years ago the little village of Trenton was very much astir. The people, excited by the events of conflict in New England, awaited to hear almost anything that might alter their conditions of life as Colonists. The tavern keeper hurried from his inn; the housewife, worried and unhappy, rushed from her doorstep; the artisan abandoned his tools on the bench; the shopkeeper left his counter; all hastened to the centre of the little community to hear what news was in store for them. Little did they realize, however, that what they were to hear would be a pronouncement which was to shake the throne of an obstinate king and eventually to be the foundation for a republic which was later to grow into one of the great Democratic governments of the world. That pronouncement was the Declaration of Independence proclaimed from the steps of the old courthouse of Hunterdon County, which stood on the easterly side of Warren Street, just south of State Street.

The assemblage at Trenton, we are told, was the first to hear that famous document read publicly, outside of the City of Philadelphia where it was conceived and formulated and later agreed to on Thursday, July 4, 1776. This reading took place on Monday, July 8, 1776, following its printing in the city of its birth and its reception here by post. It is believed that Samuel Tucker, then the President of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey and leading citizen of Trenton, was the person who read it on that notable occasion. It is recorded that the reading was held "in the presence of the Provincial Congress, the gentlemen of the committee, the officers and privates of the militia under arms and a large concourse of the inhabitants."

The old courthouse also figured in other events of national interest. In all probability the building was the meeting place of the Court of Commissioners, appointed by the Continental Congress, in 1782 to settle the land dispute between Connecticut and

Pennsylvania. This court, which consisted of seven of the most eminent jurists in the country, convened November 12 in the year named.* From its steps on April 15, 1783, the proclamation of



THE OLD BUILDING—THE HUNTERDON COUNTY COURT-HOUSE ON SOUTH WARREN STREET

Governor William Livingston declaring the cessation of war between Great Britain and the United States was publicly read. On this occasion the Vice-President of the State, members of the Legislature, judges of the Supreme Court and other public officials were present. The ratification of the Constitution of the United States by New Jersey was read aloud before a large body of citizens at this place on December 19, 1787.

* "The Trenton Decree of 1782 and The Pennamite War," a published address, representing considerable research, by Frederick W. Gnichtel, gives the details of this noted case.

TRENTON'S FIRST PUBLIC BUILDING

In the few years that Trenton was a free borough town, under a charter granted by King George, the Second, it was used as a borough hall and a place for confining offenders.

The Hunterdon County courthouse was Trenton's first public building and according to tradition, the lot on which it stood was given to the county by William Trent, for whom Trenton is named. Raum, the historian, gives the following description of it in his *History of Trenton:*

> "It was a two story building erected of grey sandstone, with stuccoed front. The cells were in the lower story. The upper story was used as a court room, the entrance to which was by a number of stone steps, erected on the outside of the building and surmounted by an iron railing. The steps extended over the pavement, commencing from the gutter, and persons going into the court room were compelled to ascend from the street. Pedestrians going up and down the street passed directly under these steps.
>
> "The steps were afterward removed from the street and placed crosswise upon the front of the building, commencing from either corner, on the north and south sides of it, and meeting at the top, in the centre of the building, forming a pyramid, so that any one going into the court room could ascend either from the north or south of it. Subsequently these steps were removed and placed inside the building."

INTERESTING TRIALS

The old court room was the scene of a number of interesting trials, among them the case of Rev. John Rowland, a traveling preacher. The Rev. William Tennent, renowned Presbyterian minister, then pastor of the church at Freehold; Joshua Anderson and Benjamin Stevens, leading members of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton were also tried here.

In the same court room the New Jersey House of Assembly met in November, 1784, the Baptists held services and the Rev. Peter Wilson, of Hightstown, gave his famous address. The city fathers also held meetings in the room until locked out by the enraged freeholders.

THE OLD JAIL

The common offenders confined in the jail were counterfeiters and horse thieves. Repetition of these offenses lead to death penalties being imposed by the authorities. As executions in those days were public affairs, they attracted people from the countryside to Trenton. Such an event is recorded by George Whitefield, famous Methodist minister, who was evidently preaching near Trenton, in his journal under the date of November 21, 1739:—

> "Being strongly desired by many, and hearing that a condemned malefactor was to suffer that week, I went in company with about thirty more to Trent-town, and reached thither by five in the evening. Here God pleased to humble my soul, and bring my sins to remembrance, so that I could hardly hold up my head. However, knowing that God called, I went out, trusting in Divine strength, and preached in the courthouse; and though I was quite barren and dry in the beginning of the discourse, yet God enabled me to speak with great sweetness, freedom, and power before I had done. The unhappy criminal seemed hardened, but I hope some good was done in the place."

The Trenton jail, like other Colonial jails, was not any too secure. Escapes were common. In Revolutionary days, British soldiers, Tories, and persons arrested for high treason were kept there. Toward the close of 1755 a group of Indians who were skulking about the countryside in Sussex County were taken into custody and held in the place for the safety of the inhabitants who were terrified by outrages then being committed by the red men in Pennsylvania.

COUNTY SEAT REMOVED

The courthouse of Hunterdon County in Revolutionary days was removed to the house of Henry Mershon, formerly the home of John Ringo, in Amwell. This was by act of legislature, March 4, 1780. After that date Trenton was no longer the county seat of Hunterdon. Prisoners of war and the Admiralty Court were kept there for a time. When the county prison was finally

abandoned the jail at Trenton was placed in charge of a town jailor, who had the custody of city prisoners.

When the Hessians were stationed at Trenton, a part of Colonel Rall's own Grenadier Regiment was quartered in the old courthouse. It is said that during the Battle of the Assunpink, January 2, 1777, the wall around the rear and sides of the building was struck by a cannon ball fired from a continental battery.

THE OLD HOME OF THE TRENTON BANKING COMPANY STANDS ON THE COURTHOUSE SITE

CONVERTED INTO BANK

The courthouse was purchased from the Freeholders of Hunterdon County by the Trenton Banking Company in 1805 for the sum of $2,055. The building was converted into a bank-

INTERIOR VIEW OF THE OLD HOME OF THE TRENTON BANKING COMPANY

ing house and during the thirty or more years it was used for such purposes, a number of alterations were made to it. Subsequently the old building was demolished and the present structure (1927) was erected upon the site. A part of the old jail wall still stands in the rear of the present building.

No story of the Trenton Banking Company would be complete without some reference to an exciting night in its history. This was on Sunday evening, January 21, 1872, when a party of burglars entered the place. An account of this affair is given in a

history of the institution, published in 1907, which records as follows:—

> "One of the watchmen, Mr. Bailey, was seized and gagged after he had entered the bank, the other, Mr. Asher Swem, being also attacked as he entered the front door of the bank. The latter defended himself with so much vigor, and resisted their attempt to bind him with so much noise, as to attract the attention of Mrs. John V. Hutchinson, a lady who was passing by, who instantly gave the alarm in the neighborhood. The police arrived too late to secure the burglars, who abandoned their attempt and fled from the rear of the building. The boxes of some of the depositors were broken open, and several thousand dollars in bonds and other securities were carried away, some which was never recovered. A short time after the occurrence a letter, bearing the Brooklyn postmark, reached the bank, containing $6,800 of bonds and coupons of the State of New Jersey, payment of which had been stopped, and which the burglars thought best to return."

Old records of the Trenton Banking Company reveal the names of local and international figures. It is shown that a loan was once made to Prince Lucien Murat, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, who offered a diamond bracelet as security for $8,000. This bracelet had been trusted to the prince by Hortense, Queen of Holland. Joseph Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon, did banking there. The records disclose further a distinguished list of names of persons who had business transactions at this bank. Among these were such persons as General Jean Victor Moreau, one of the noted leaders of the first French Republic; L. Maillard, secretary to Joseph Bonaparte; Jasper Harding, then owner of *The Philadelphia Inquirer;* and Commodore Richard Dale and Lieutenant C. M. Hunter, both of the United States Navy.

The Trenton Banking Company removed to its imposing new home at the corner of State and Warren Streets a few years ago.

NOTE: The material relative to the reading of the Declaration of Independence and a number of other events of national interest that took place in the courthouse is in accordance with the researches of Counsellor William J. Backes.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEW landmarks in the city are more expressive of earlier Trenton than the First Presbyterian Church and its graveyard. In the heart of Trenton's business section, with tall buildings not far away, it remains with all the quaintness of a typical country church. The First Presbyterian Church today is Trenton's "Old Trinity," clinging with ancient dignity to a newly-shaped world. In its graveyard lie prominent citizens of Colonial Trenton, and Trenton of Revolutionary days and after.

Some outstanding figures interred in the little cemetery are:— Moore Furman, the first mayor of Trenton; Aaron Dickinson Woodruff, second mayor of Trenton; James Ewing, third mayor of Trenton; Alexander Calhoun, Sr., the "Head of Town" shopkeeper for whom Calhoun Street is named; Dr. Nicholas Belleville, eminent physician; General William S. Stryker, author of "The Battles of Trenton and Princeton" and a number of noteworthy historical papers; Col. Isaac Smith, head of the local militia, a member of the House of Representatives, and first president of the Trenton Banking Company; General John Beatty, a member of the State Legislature and later member of Congress; Abraham Hunt, the wealthy merchant who entertained Col. Rall, the Hessian commander, on Christmas night, December 25, 1776; and tradition says that somewhere within the enclosure repose the dust of a number of the Hessians who were killed or died of wounds in the battle, including the brave Col. Rall, himself. On the west side of the church stands a memorial to Rev. John Rosborough, chaplain-martyr, who was bayoneted by the Hessians just prior to the Battle of the Assunpink. Many of those who rest in this sacred ground were of the Presbyterian denomination, for here was erected the first Presbyterian house of worship in Trenton.

The things that are near to us are often the things we pass by. It is mainly the tourist, who stops to contemplate on the date of a headstone or gaze upon an epitaph that may catch the eye.

The history of this plot of land, where local Presbyterianism had its beginning, goes back to the year of 1727. At that time, a part of the present property was given to the trustees by a number of residents of Trenton and vicinity, with the understanding as specified by deed "for the special uses and trust following, that is to say, to be and remain forever for the use of public worship and as a burial place for the Presbyterian congregation of Trenton forever." The other part of the plot was acquired by purchase.

THE FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP

One of the oldest reminders of early Trenton in this enclosure is a marker recording the name of Robert Archibold who died in 1734.

FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The first church, which is believed to have been erected in 1726, one year prior to the deeding of the original piece of land, was a small edifice of stone construction. John Fitch, whose name is identified with early steamboating, worshipped here following his dispute with the Methodists because of his working

on the Sabbath. For a time he was a lieutenant of one of the local militia companies and afterwards he was made Armourer by the Committee of Safety.*

THE PRESENT PLACE OF WORSHIP

Near the church stood the parochial schoolhouse where many of the children of the settlement were initiated into the mysteries of the three R's by Nicholas Dubois, who also filled the offices of elder and chorister. This little place of learning, which is believed to have been erected in 1753, was leased to the Trenton Academy in 1800. It was razed when the present church was built.

* John Fitch Way, which runs along the Delaware River from the Municipal Wharf to the Assunpink Creek, was named for the humble inventor. Near the wharf stands a monument to his memory. This was erected by the City Commission in 1922.

The Trenton Academy held examinations here and these were attended by the Governor, the State Legislature and persons of national prominence. Richard Henry Lee, President of Congress, Baron Frederick William Augustus von Steuben and others were present at an examination held in 1784.

THE CHURCH INCORPORATED

On September 8, 1756, the church was incorporated. The incorporaters were Rev. David Cowell, the pastor, with Charles Clark, Alexander Chambers, Andrew Reed, Joseph Yard, Arthur Howell and William Green. On May 4, 1788, this charter, which was granted by George the Second of England, was superseded by the action of the congregation which accepted the provisions of the general act providing for the incorporation of religious bodies.

In 1762 the congregation purchased a lot on Third Street, now Hanover Street, where a parsonage was erected. This house was used as a hospital by the Hessians who damaged the place and totally destroyed the stable on the premises. A number of these mercenaries were quartered in the church, which was also damaged and plundered.

Major Friedrich Ludwig von Dechow, of the Von Knyphausen regiment, was severely wounded near the building in the Battle of Trenton. He died the day after the engagement and was probably buried in the churchyard.

SECOND HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The stone house of worship was razed in 1804 to make room for a new brick edifice which was dedicated August 17, 1806. The following description of this church by Dr. F. A. Ewing is quoted from Dr. Hall's *History of the First Presbyterian Church*:—

> "Elevation seemed to be the great object to be attained, and so the walls were carried to a height which would now be thought excessive. Its galleries were supported by lofty columns, and in consequence, its pulpit was so high as sometimes to threaten dizziness to the preacher's head. Above the gallery the vaulted ceiling afforded almost room enough

for another church. It had its tower, its belfrey and bell, still sweet and melodious, its spire, which had it been proportioned in height to the tower supporting it, would have ascended needle-like almost to the clouds. With all its architectural defects, however, it was a fine old building well adopted to the purposes of speaking and hearing; filled an important office, both to the congregation and on public occasions; stood for years the chief landmark to miles of surrounding country, and at last resisted sternly the efforts of its destroyers. Its site, on the southwest corner of the graveyard, is well defined by the old graves and tombs which clustered close to its northern and eastern sides, and is the only part of ground divided into burial lots."

General Lafayette attended services at the church when he visited Trenton in 1824, and seven years previously, President James Monroe, author of the famous Monroe Doctrine, worshipped there.

PRESENT CHURCH ERECTED

In 1839 the brick building was demolished and the present church was built. The corner stone of the new house of worship was laid with appropriate exercises on May 2, 1839, and on January 19, 1840, the first services were held there. In 1870 the interior was entirely renovated and other improvements made. Daniel Webster, accompanied by Hon. William L. Dayton, attended services there on Sunday morning, March 21, 1852.

Some other persons of note, whose names were identified with the history of the First Presbyterian Church, are:—Samuel Henry, owner of the iron works of old Trenton; Rev. David Cowell, the first pastor; Andrew Reed, the first treasurer of the Borough of Trenton; General Joseph Reed, of Revolutionary fame; Samuel Tucker, president of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey and treasurer of the new state; Samuel L. Southard, Secretary of the Navy; Chief Justice Ewing, and Rev. John Hall, the tenth pastor.

The honor of erecting the first house of worship in the settlement of Trenton goes to the Presbyterians. This was the little stone church briefly described in a foregoing paragraph. The early history of Presbyterianism in Trenton and vicinity is closely associated with that of the Church of England (St. Michael's P. E. Church).

THE OLD BARRACKS

OF all the landmarks in Trenton the "Old Barracks," as it is now affectionately called, is the most widely-known and sought after by tourists interested in local Colonial and Revolutionary associations.

The building, which stands on South Willow Street at the entrance to Mahlon Stacy Park, is regarded as the finest specimen of Colonial barracks in the United States. This was one of the five buildings erected in New Jersey during the French and Indian War, and is the only one of these extant. So typical and so representative of the earlier days is the building, that reproductions of it were erected at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, and at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia.

The "Old Barracks" has an unusual history. It has served both patriot and foe. The recruit to the American army, the English soldier, the mercenary Hessian, the prisoner of war, and the Tory refugee were sheltered in the building at various times. Aside from these the persecuted Moravian Indians, on their way from Pennsylvania to New York at the time of the Pontiac War, 1763-64, were lodged in the place overnight.

Just before the Battle of Trenton, fifty Hessian yagers were quartered in the barracks. These were surprised by the Continentals of General Sullivan's division.

For several years after the close of the Revolution the building was not used. In February, 1787, it was sold by the state to William Ogden and William Patterson. When Front Street was extended from Willow Street to the State House, a portion of the structure was demolished to accommodate the lengthening of that thoroughfare. This left the north wing standing on one side of the street and the south wing and a part of the main structure on the other. The north wing was then converted into three residences. The porches were removed from the other section, and subsequently it was purchased and occupied by the Widows' and Single Women's Home Society.

In 1902 this portion was purchased from the society by contributions received from persons living in all parts of the state. This movement was promoted by Mrs. S. D. Oliphant, assisted by Mrs. Cornelius Hook, Mrs. James B. Breese, Mrs. Washington A. Roebling, and Mrs. William S. Stryker, who became the incorporators. Later the north wing was purchased and the work of restoration began. The late Wilbur F. Sadler, Jr., Adjutant-General of New Jersey and Chancellor Edwin Robert Walker were prominently identified with this work.

BARRACKS IN COLONIAL DAYS

From a drawing made by Henry R. MacGinnis, according to the researches of Chancellor Edwin Robert Walker.

In 1914 the barracks was deeded to the State of New Jersey in order to insure its perpetual care and preservation. The landmark is cared for by the Old Barracks Association.

The law which provided for the erection of the barracks was passed by the Council and General Assembly of the Colony, April 15, 1758. The purposes of the act are set forth in the preamble:

"WHEREAS, It is found by experience that in the admitting Soldiers within private Houses in this Colony during their winter Quarters is not only attended with very heavy publick expense but many other pernicious consequences to private Famalies, for prevention whereof for the future:"

Following the passage of the law, a lot at the westerly end of Front Street was purchased of Mrs. Sarah Chubb, daughter of Joseph Peace, one of the early settlers of the town, for the sum of forty pounds. Mr. Peace bought the lot in a tract of

thirty acres from James Trent, son of William Trent, in March, 1732, for one hundred and seventy pounds, silver money.*

Work on the building was begun in May, 1758, and was completed in March, 1759. In December, 1759, an addition was erected for quartering the officers.

The barracks in its early days was designated as "Whitehall." In the rear of it flowed Petty's Run on its journey to the river,

THE NORTH WING BEFORE RESTORATION

and along the bank of this pretty little stream stood the steel mill, an early industry of Trenton, with a record dating back to 1734.

In addition to those of Colonial and Revolutionary days, the barracks has other associations worthy of mention. Among the occupants who lived in the officers' quarters, after it was made into a residence, were Mr. and Mrs. David Johnston, whose daughters, Emmeline and Mary, conducted a private school there for a number of years. The following extract from an

* Mr. Peace's holdings became known as "Peace's meadows." Peace Street memorializes the name to-day.

unsigned article published several years ago in the *Sunday Times-Advertiser* gives a picture of this place of learning:

"In a corner there was a dunce stool, and downstairs in the kitchen, near the pump, hung a rag with which Katie, the housemaid, swabbed the mouths of boys the Misses Johnston had

SOUTH WING AND PORTION OF MAIN SECTION BEFORE RESTORATION

overheard uttering 'darn it' and 'gosh' and 'gee,' and other such horrible words. Dear Katie, she was a sympathetic soul and when a bad boy cried as he saw her soaping the swab, she, too, generally dropped a tear, at the same time declaring she didn't like the job she had on hand but must obey orders.

"When the switch was used it was Miss Mary who was on its stouter end, and as a rule the boy upon whom it was plied had done something awful—like holding one of Beadle's terrible dime novels, with a yellow cover, inside his geography, and in the deeds of Rattlesnake Bill, or some other hero of the plains, becoming so interested that he failed to observe the teacher leave her little platform after which she would tip-toe along the wall,

execute a flank movement, grab the novel, and throw it into the stove, march the culprit forward, give him a trouncing, then sentence him to the dunce stool for the remainder of the day."

THE OLD BARRACKS TO-DAY

The "Old Barracks," with the exception of a part of the main section, stands to-day practically the same as when it was origi-

THE "OLD BARRACKS" TODAY

From an etching by Geo. A. Bradshaw

nally erected. This beloved Colonial structure, together with the old Masonic Lodge and the Douglas House, forms Trenton's famous historic triangle.

The barracks is furnished throughout in the style of the period, and the collection includes many rare pieces. Old prints representing phases of Trenton's Revolutionary history adorn the walls. It is a refreshing place of seclusion where the quaint charm of Colonial days awaits the visitor.

The upper floor of the officers quarters, known as the "armory" is devoted to a museum. Here on display are the George Middleton collection of Indian relics, the Ernest R. Ackermon collection of Continental currency, and many other objects of

Colonial and Revolutionary days. One of the outstanding pieces in this room is a segment of the old arch under which General Washington passed at Trenton in 1789 while en route to New York City to be inaugurated President of the United States. General Lafayette in 1824 passed under the same arch which was re-erected for him at the old State House gate.

Under the eaves of the officers' quarters on the wall facing Willow Street is a porcelain reproduction of the Great Seal of the Colony of New Jersey. This seal occupies a niche or circular opening, evidently the place of the original which is supposed to have been removed after the barracks was sold by the state. The original model for this seal was made by the late Colonel William E. Pedrick. It was unveiled several years ago with appropriate ceremonies, the address at the time being made by Chancellor Robert Walker.

THE CORNER HISTORIC

TRENTON'S most historic corner is that occupied by the Mechanics National Bank on the southwest corner of Warren and State Streets, where events of local, state, national and international significance took place. This site has been appropriately named "The Corner Historic."

The greater part of this chapter concerns the handsome residence of John Dagworthy, which we are told was erected on the corner during the early 1730's. It was rented late in the year of 1740 to Lewis Morris, the Royal Governor of the Colony of New Jersey, and thus it became his official residence. Morris occupied the place until June, 1742, when he removed to "Woodlawn" on South Warren Street. Following the death of John Dagworthy in 1756, the house was purchased by Samuel Henry, one of Trenton's early manufacturers of products in iron, and in 1780 it was converted into a tavern. Alterations and additions were made to the place to conform with an establishment of this kind. During the month of May, 1780, the transformed Dagworthy residence opened its doors as Trenton's newest house of entertainment under the name of the "Thirteen Stars."

HERE CONGRESS MET

Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey in his treatise on "The Mechanics Bank" gives a noteworthy history of the site from the early days to the present time. To enumerate the many phases in which it has figured and properly present each, would go beyond the space allotted for a brief sketch, but a review of the highlights as presented by the historian is worthy of quoting.

> "There is no landmark in historic Trenton which stands forth so pre-eminently as that now occupied by The Mechanics Bank. The combination of events occurring upon it are as conspicuous as they were extraordinary and rare. On the site resided one or more of our Colonial Governors. The Seventh Capitol of the United States was located in the

Old Tavern, where the Continental Congress deliberated, and where the New Jersey Legislature frequently met during and after the Revolution. Here Lafayette took his farewell of

Used by courtesy of The Mechanics National Bank

FROM 1780 TO 1837 A TAVERN STOOD ON "THE CORNER HISTORIC"

Congress, and where—years after—he was entertained by his illustrious comrades in arms of the Society of the Cincinnati. The first American Flag definitely known to have been hoisted in Trenton was unfurled to the breeze from the French Arms on May 24, 1782. In the tavern the National Constitution was ratified by the Convention of the State of New Jersey. And here also Washington was dined and here he held a public reception when en route to New York to be inaugurated President of the United States.

"On the site frequently gathered men famous in the councils of the nation and of the State, foreign diplomats, distinguished officers of the army and of the militia, and other eminent citizens. Many notable functions of international, national, State and local interest occurred here. Among the prominent patrons of the tavern were such men as President George Washington, the Marquis Lafayette and other celebrities. Here also banks, manufacturing and other interests were organized and manipulated. Because of varied fascinating attractions by which the inn was surrounded, it long maintained its supremacy as the social centre of Trenton, and where congregated interesting convivial spirits in ye olden days."

A CENTRE OF LIFE

Dr. Godfrey's review of the site indicates that it must have been in the fine old tavern days that the building enjoyed the most eventful part of its career. The picture may bring even more vivid and detailed scenes about the place to the imagination. What an interesting centre of life the inn must have presented during the early years of our new government! Think of the scenes of gaiety! There is a hurry and bustle at the door. The stage has arrived from Brunswick. The passengers have already alighted and the luggage is rapidly being unloaded. While the horses are fed and watered, the stage driver comes from his seat to mingle with the throng that eagerly awaits to hear the latest happenings along the route. And here comes the post rider with precious tidings and official documents.

The scene changes. The basement taproom is before us. There is a continual chatter and laughter, the clashing of ale mugs and the clinking of glasses. Then a discussion arises. It becomes heated and there is the thumping of clenched fists on the table. What is it all about? We inquire of the barkeep as to the cause of the excitement and he politely informs us that it is just a friendly argument as to whether George Washington should or should not be King of the new Empire.

There is another transformation. We enter the spacious Long Room in the floor above. Before us is the scene of merry-making—but great in contrast with the more boisterous and argu-

mentative one in the basement. Here Trenton's finest, the pupils of the suave and debonair M. D'Oriffiere, of the French Academy in Philadelphia, are being instructed in "all sorts of dances, the most in fashion, but principally the graces and manners."

Used by courtesy of The Mechanics National Bank

THE MECHANICS NATIONAL BANK, ORGANIZED IN 1834, MOVED TO ITS NEW BUILDING ON "THE CORNER HISTORIC," 1838

AN INVITING ATMOSPHERE

That the tavern which stood on "The Corner Historic" had a most inviting atmosphere, is evidenced by record which tells us that the Deacons and Elders of the First Presbyterian Church officially met there and yes—even the minister was there on at

least two occasions. But these events lose their strangeness in face of the record telling of the preliminary meeting for the organization of the "New Jersey State Temperance Society" which was held there Friday, October 2, 1829. And so we learn that Trenton's early social centre known at different times as the "Thirteen Stars," the "French Arms," the "Blazing Star" and the "City Tavern" served for many purposes, some of which were not strictly in accordance with its interests.

PRESENT HOME OF THE MECHANICS NATIONAL BANK ON "THE CORNER HISTORIC"

The proprietors of the place at various times were:—Jacob G. Bergen, John Cape, Francis Witt, Henry Drake, Joseph Broadhurst, John Voorhees, Joseph I. Thompson, Jacob Herbert, Joseph M. Bispham, Joseph M. Vancleve, Benjamin South, Stacy Kirkbride and Mrs. Francis Green.

BANK IS ERECTED

In the year of 1836 the tavern was purchased by the Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank (now the Mechanics National Bank) and the year following the old historic landmark passed into

memory. A two-story brick "rough cast" bank building was erected on the site. From time to time, additions and alterations were made to the structure.

The Mechanics Bank came into existence in 1834, and was the third banking house to open its doors in Trenton. It is today the largest and second oldest bank of the city and ranks as one of the leading financial institutions in the State. The whole period of its life has been attended with success, and officers and directors have been men of a high caliber, a number of whom have won distinction in other fields. Edward C. Stokes, the present chief of the institution, was Governor of New Jersey and is an able speaker as well as an recognized authority on banking. The late Henry C. Kelsey, for a number of years vice-president, held the office of Secretary of State from 1870 to 1897. Harry D. Leavitt, a former vice-president, was for many years a member of the New Jersey State Senate.

THE TRENTON ACADEMY

THE Revolution was still on when the movement to establish a suitable school for the education of Trenton youth took tangible form. In the turmoil of the conflict, twenty prominent men of the city and State formed an organization known as the Trenton School Company, thereby bringing into existence one of the renowned institutions of learning in New Jersey—the Trenton Academy.

Following the day of organization, February 10, 1781, the trustees purchased a lot on the north side of what is now Academy Street for the sum of 15 pounds. Upon this lot a school building was erected. On November 10, 1785, an act was passed incorporating the original proprietors and trustees, and the name of the Trenton School company was changed to that of "The Proprietors of the Trenton Academy."

The early course of instruction offered at this seat of learning was very elementary in character, arithmetic and public speaking being considered among the higher branches. As the institution progressed, the course of study was enlarged and we find that in 1789 the following branches were taught:—English, Extraction of the Roots, History, Rhetoric, Spirit of Laws and Criticism, Cæsar's Commentaries, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Justin or Sallust in Latin, the New Testament, Lucian's Dialogues, Xenophon or Homer in Greek. A number of these studies were offered with reservations.

The academy was a pay school, each proprietor's share entitling the holder to send a child without charge for the use of the building. Pupils not sent on shares were required to pay a stipulated sum in addition to tuition. All pupils were required to pay for incidentals.

From time to time more land was purchased and additions and alterations made to the original school building. Parcels of land were bought in 1783, 1788 and 1854.

Some of the prominent men who attended this old institution of learning were:— Joseph Naar, editor of the *Daily True*

American; Colonel Washington A. Roebling, eminent engineer, who completed the work of his father in the erection of the Brooklyn Bridge; Dr. Charles Conrad Abbott, celebrated naturalist and archæologist; Chief Justice William E. Gummere and Ion H. Perdicaris. The last named in 1904, was an international

THE TRENTON ACADEMY

figure. As an American citizen, residing in Morocco, he with his stepson, Cromwell Varley, a subject of Great Britain, was captured and held for ransom by the notorious bandit, Raisuli. Both governments immediately demanded the release of the prisoners. "Perdicaris alive or Raissuli dead," was the ultimatum issued by President Roosevelt, which resulted in the freedom of the men.

We are told one of the early Sunday schools founded in the country held sessions at one time in the old Academy. During the year of 1816 the Methodists conducted a school there in connection with the Trenton and Lamberton Sunday and Free School Association, and in 1876 the Trinity P. E. Church used a room

in the structure for Sunday school purposes. Later the United Brethren held services in the place.

After rounding out more than half a century of service as a school, the old Academy closed its doors in 1884. The building was demolished in 1900. The Free Public Library now stands on the Academy lot.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDS ON THE ACADEMY SITE

From a drawing by A. M. Wrobel.

While the old Academy is but a memory, we have two reminders of its existence—one the street that bears its name, having been changed from the name of Fourth Street of Revolutionary times, and the other the old school bell, now doing duty at the Fisher-Andrew works, and which once summoned the pupils to their studies.

THE STATE BANK CORNER

FOR nearly a century and a quarter there stood at the northeast corner of Warren and Bank Streets a landmark of both local and state-wide interest. This building was the home of the State Bank, one of the five institutions of its kind to be established in New Jersey. For many years the old structure, with its fine Colonial doorway, was looked upon with curious eyes by Trentonians of the younger generation who seemed to know very little of its history.

This banking house, known as the State Bank of Trenton, was created by an act of the Legislature passed January 26, 1812, establishing State banks at Trenton, Camden, New Brunswick, Elizabeth, Morristown and Newark. It is said that for a time the institution had good patronage, but that reverses came from which it never recovered.

THE FIRST HOME

The first home of the bank was in a building that stood on East State Street near where the store of S. P. Dunham and Company now stands. Preparations for a permanent home were made in 1812. The plot of land at the corner of what is now Warren and Bank Streets was purchased of Robert McNeely, tanyard owner and mayor of Trenton, 1814-1832. The following year a building was erected and the institution removed to its new quarters.

The first president of the bank was James Jefferson Wilson, famous editor and publisher of the old *True American,* brigadier-general and adjutant-general of New Jersey. He was also quartermaster-general. Wilson died in this city July 28, 1824.*

*Wilson was a Baptist. He is known to have been interred in a local churchyard, but apparently no marker was ever placed upon his grave. The supposition is, that he was buried either in the yard of the First Baptist Church on Centre Street, or in the yard of "Boswell's Church" on Union Street. The latter yard is now the property of the People of Truth Congregation. The bodies were removed from it some years ago when the Jews purchased the premises.

The first cashier was Charles Gordon, who like Wilson was prominent in the city and State and who also held several military offices during his lifetime.

The State Bank building could lay claim to the distinction of having housed more enterprises of a varied character than any other landmark of old Trenton.

THE STATE BANK BUILDING

THE SCHOOLS

In the 1830's, Miss Betsy P. Atkinson opened a boarding and day school for young boys, and the building was also used for worship by the Rev. Morgan J. Rhees, local Baptist preacher.* In the early 40's a public high school, probably the first in Trenton, was conducted there. This school was held in one of the upper rooms of the building and William Hough was the superintendent. At the same time one of the lower rooms was used by a Mr. Kingman as a school for boys.

* Rhees was pastor of the First Baptist Church from 1830 to 1840. He was the first Baptist city missionary of Trenton, and one of the founders of the Baptist State Missionary Convention.

OLD VAULT UNEARTHED

A sidelight on the history of the old bank and its workings is given in the *State Gazette,* April 18, 1848. In this issue of the newspaper is a news item telling of the reopening of the old vaults by workmen engaged to renovate the building for an agricultural implement factory.

ST. MARY'S CONVENT NOW OCCUPIES THE SPOT

The story of the "find" is best told by the newspaper:—

"The vaults of this institution, which have been for so many years closed to the light, were broken open last week, by Mr. Woodward's workmen. One of the vaults, that in the old banking room, has been entirely removed. The walls were very thick, and bricks and mortar of which they were composed, now almost fill the yard. The whole building is indeed of the strongest and best construction. It is evident that the bank was at least not meant to break.

"Many packages of notes of the bank were lying in the upper vault, and some of them were carried off by the boys.

It is said that the youngsters found among the packages, quite a number of good bank notes, amounting to about $150. They were notes of the Sussex Bank, and Middletown Point Bank and one of the Newark Banks. About five dollars were found in a till in cents and half cents.

"A large number of books and papers were also in the vault. Most of them were such as showed only the ordinary transactions of the institution; but occasionally one of them met with a peculiar kind—indicating what shifts the agents of the bank in New York were sometimes put to, to keep up its credit—and also, what straits the creditors of the bank sometimes found themselves in, what odd securities they offered for discounts, and what appeals they made for renewals upon the payment of a very small percentage on their notes.

"The names of many persons figure largely on the discount books who have long since closed all their worldly accounts—some by death, and not a few by insolvency. It would do no harm to the present and most prosperous of our merchants and traders to look over these names. We observe that those who borrowed thousands, few have any credit left; while those who borrowed hundreds or fifties many have lived since in moderate prosperity, and died in the possession of at least enough to pay their debts."

TAVERN DAYS

In the 1850's the building was used as brew house and bottling establishment by William Morton and Nathan Richardson, trading under the name of Morton and Richardson, manufacturers and wholesale dealers in porter, ale, sarsaparilla, mineral water, beer, meade, etc. Later the business was conducted under the name of Nathan Richardson and Son. A laundry was also operated in the rear part of the building.

In the 1880's the building or a part of it was the office and publishing house of the *Trenton Herald,* a weekly newspaper, and the *New Jersey Staats Journal,* both edited and published by the late Col. E. C. Stahl.

Aside from what has already been told, the building has been used as a dancing school, an undertaking establishment, plumber's

shop, storehouse for army munitions and cabinet maker's shop. During its last days it served as a storehouse for antiques owned by the late Samuel Gordon.

WAS A TAVERN SITE

On the site of the bank stood one of Trenton's well-known taverns, which was previously the home of Abraham Cottman. It was a frame building with kitchen detached. In the rear was an apple orchard through which flowed Petty's Run. This property was known as Doud's Dale and embraced sixteen acres or more of land north and west.

The tavern was opened at the place by Rensselaer Williams in 1776 and it was known as "The Royal Oak." John Adams was entertained there in 1777 and the following year the Court of Admiralty held at least one session within its walls. After the close of the war the name was changed to "The Green Tree." At the front of the building hung a large signboard showing a beaver knawing at a tree and the word "Persevande." In the 1780's Marquis de Chastellux, the distinguished French traveler, visited the place and dined there. In the record of his travels, which is reproduced from Lee's *History of Trenton,* he has the following to say concerning his visit:—

> "I arrived early at Trenton, having remarked nothing interesting on the road unless it be the beauty of the country, which everywhere corresponds with the reputation of the Jerseys, called the garden of America. On approaching Trenton, the road descends a little, and permits one to see at the east end of the town the orchard where the Hessians hastily collected and surrendered—prisoners." Speaking of the tavern, he says he found "his headquarters well established in a good inn kept by Mr. Williams. The sign of this inn is a philosophical, or if you will, a political emblem. It represents a beaver at work, with his teeth, to bring down a large tree, and underneath is written 'Persevande'."

Members of the Trenton Library Company in 1781 met in the tavern and on July 4, 1782, the Governor and leading men of the town celebrated the occasion with an "elegant dinner." The flag was displayed from the front of the building along Warren

Street. In 1784 the merchants of western New Jersey held a meeting in the place, which was then known as the "Coffee House." From this time on until the establishment closed its doors, the business was done under different names. Towards its last years as a public house it became established as a stopping point for stage coaches.*

Rensselaer Williams seems to have been the most prominent proprietor of the tavern. He was a friend of John Fitch and aided him to obtain from the Legislature of New Jersey the exclusive privilege for the navigation of the Delaware and all other waters of the State by steam propulsion. He lies buried in St. Michael's churchyard.

St. Mary's Convent now occupies the site of the tavern and bank. Operations on the convent were begun in the latter part of 1921.

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* "On the 13th of April, 1801, Thomas Porter advertised three trips weekly between Hummel's tavern (corner of Warren and Bank Streets) and Philadelphia, with a pair of horses and coacher, during the summer season."—History of Burlington and Mercer Counties by E. M. Woodward and John F. Hageman—p. 674.

THE STATE CAPITOL

THE nation was still young when Trenton was made the seat of government of New Jersey. A permanent Federal government, under the leadership of President George Washington, was in the making. John Adams, the ardent Revolutionist of the early days of the war, occupied the chair of vice-president. It was at a time when the hatred, jealousies and secret ambitions of men who sought power became manifest; lovers of display and wealth clamored for an American aristocracy or a nobility still with the hope that Washington would yet assume the title of King—a society sharp in contrast to that represented by the almost forgotten humble soldier of the Revolution and the lowly tiller of the soil. It was these hatreds, jealousies and divergent ideas that led to the formation of the two leading political parties, whose early history was marked by riots, secret intrigues, duels, gossip and slander. Lawmakers and wild-eyed orators shouted the glories of that new plaything —Liberty and Independence—in the meeting halls, while slaves were auctioned off to the highest bidders at the tavern or public square nearby.

Trenton was made the seat of government for New Jersey by an act of the Legislature approved November 25, 1790. In November of the following year Joseph Cooper, Thomas Lowery, James Ewing, Maskell Ewing, George Anderson, James Mott and Moore Furman were appointed commissioners, with the power to purchase or accept suitable land upon which to erect a State building. A tract of land of about three and three-quarters acres was secured in the environs just west of the town. Here the original State House—a plain rough-cast building with belfry—was erected. The work of construction was begun in November, 1791. By an act of Legislature passed March 3, 1795, a building was erected for quarters of the Secretary of State, and for the preservation of the public records. During the years of 1791-95 a gravel walk was laid by Common Council

from Chambers corner (Art School corner) to the State Capitol Building.

In 1798 the lot was enclosed with a fence and in 1799, a brick pavement was laid around the building. From time to time improvements and repairs were made to the structure.

THE FIRST BUILDING ABOUT 1794-95

When the final attempt was made to establish the national capital at or near Trenton in 1801, the State House and other public buildings were offered to the government for the use of Congress and for public offices. On December 2 of that year the House of Assembly resolved unanimously:—

> "That the members representing the State, in the Congress of the United States, be and they are hereby requested, if Congress should resolve to remove, for the purpose of better accommodation, from the city of Washington, to use their best efforts to procure their removal to the city of Trenton: and they are hereby authorized to proffer, in the

name of this State, the State House and other public buildings belonging to the State for the use of Congress and their officers, for any length of time that the Congress shall wish to occupy them, and that his Excellency, the Governor, be requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the members of Congress from this State, to be used by them as occasion may offer."

THE CAPITOL, 1845-48

In 1806, the State House was provided with a bell which announced the hour of meeting for both houses. At one time the bell was used also to give the alarm of fire in the town. In later years, it was discarded.

Decided improvements were made to the State House in 1848. The rough casting was removed, two additional buildings were erected adjoining the main one and the rotunda was added. This work was done under the direction of a commission composed of Samuel R. Gummere, Samuel R. Hamilton and Stacy A. Paxson. Further improvements are cited in Fitzgerald's *Legislative Manual* of the State of New Jersey for 1927.

In 1863, '64 and '65, appropriations were expended in building additions for the State Library and Executive Chambers. In 1871, Charles S. Olden, Thomas J. Stryker and Lewis Perrine

THE CAPITOL ABOUT 1860

were appointed commissioners to cause a suitable addition to be built—more commodious apartments for the Senate and Assembly.

The sum of $50,000 was appropriated and the buildings for the Legislature were ready for occupancy in time for the meeting of the Legislature in 1872. In 1872, $120,000 was appropriated for completing the building, $3,000 for fitting up the

Executive Chamber, $4,000 for fitting up the Chancery and Supreme Court rooms, and $2,000 for fitting up the offices on the first floor of the east wing. In 1873, the sum of $43,000 was appropriated for the improvement of the front of the building, completing unfinished repairs and improvements and for fitting up the library.

THE CAPITOL AS IT IS TODAY
(Photo does not show State office buildings)

On March 18th, 1875, the sum of $15,000 was appropriated for the purpose of putting a new three-story front on the building, and equipping offices on the second floor for the Clerks of the Court of Chancery and Supreme Court, and for providing a suitable museum for geological specimens, and the battle flags of New Jersey volunteer regiments, carried during the Civil War.

THE BIG FIRE

One of the most memorable blazes in the life of older Trenton occurred on the bitter cold, early morning of March 21, 1885,

when the front portion of the State House was destroyed by fire. The blaze was discovered about 2:30 o'clock by the watchman, who noticed smoke issuing from the office of the Quartermaster-General in the northwest end of the building.

The alarm was sounded from the corner of State and Willow Streets, according to the *State Gazette* of 1885. When the firemen arrived they found the plugs frozen and a thick layer of ice on the water power, now Sanhican creek. The temperature was below zero and the blaze swept on to the Court of Chancery and to the office of the Bureau of Labor Statistics before the plugs could be thawed. By this time the fire had reached the museum on the third floor of the structure where flags and relics of the Civil War were on display, and it was only through the courageous work of the late Adjutant-General William S. Stryker, the firemen and a number of citizens, that the mementoes were saved.

The weather was so cold that the water from the hose was frozen as soon as it struck the building. The structure was sheeted with ice. After battling for several hours, the firemen succeeded in confining the fire to the front portion and by 6 o'clock in the morning it was under control.

The Legislature then appropriated $50,000 for rebuilding, and in the year following an additional appropriation of $225,000 was granted. The new building was completed in 1889. The following description of it from the *Legislative Manual:*—

> "It is of rectangular shape and of the Renaissance style of architecture, with a frontage of one hundred and sixty feet on State Street, a depth of sixty-seven feet, and three and a half stories high, with rotunda thirty-nine feet across, which connects with the new section of the Capitol with the original part. The rotunda is surmounted by a dome one hundred and forty-five feet high.
>
> "The building has about sixty feet more frontage than the former one, and approached about ten feet nearer the street."

From this time on (1889) subsequent additions, repairs and improvements were made to the State House. These included a new Assembly Chamber, which was erected in 1891; an addition providing for a consultation room for the judges of the

Supreme Court, the Court of Errors and Appeals and a private room for the Governor; a new Senate Chamber erected in 1903; an addition providing for more offices and extensions to the east and west wings.

For a period of seven years, from 1910 to 1917, the State made extensive purchases. These included the acquisition of Delaware Street, the residence of the Green family and others fronting West State Street. Properties along Front Street and Willow Street were also acquired, with extensions to the "Water Power."

Delaware Street, which was donated to the city by United States Senator D. Wall, of Burlington, was closed and the land became a part of the State grounds. For a time the residences on State Street were used as offices. Later they were demolished and the land added to the State Park. The oldest of this group of residences was the one that stood on the Delaware and West State Street. It was the home of the late Caleb S. Green, who was a judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals. Following the death of Justice Green the home was occupied by his widow. During the administration of the late Governor Murphy, an effort was made to purchase the residence as a site for an executive mansion.

In 1921 the State Office Building on West Hanover Street was erected. The Moore residence, a landmark, which stood opposite the State House and which had been purchased by the State, was then demolished to make a suitable rear entrance to the Office Building.

In 1924-25 the Green, Vroom and Dayton residences just west of the State House, were purchased for further extension to the grounds.

The present State House, which of course embodies both the old and the new, has many historic associations. It was in the old building on January 14, 1800, the townsfolk held the exercises commemorating the death of Washington. The early Fourth of July celebrations were held in the evenings in the building. These usually took the form of parties conducted by the ladies of the town. These occasions called for the illumination of the building and the grounds.

It was at a session of the Legislature held in the Capitol Building, February 6, 1815, that John Stevens was given the right to construct a railroad in the State. This was the first charter of its kind ever granted in the United States. Years later the building became famous as the hatching place for many of the large trusts and corporations.

Men of prominence who visited Trenton spoke in the State House—Lafayette, Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, Vice-President Richard Johnson, President Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison and others. And from the executive offices of the State, Governor Woodrow Wilson won his way to the chair of the Chief Executive of the United States.

THE CENTRE OF TOWN

IF a Trentonian, who died in the early 1860's, were to make a return journey to the centre-of-town he would, in all probability, recognize only a few of the buildings that were standing in his time. He would discover that Greene Street, with its familiar landmarks had undergone a transformation both in name and in appearance. He would search in vain for the street market, the town pump, the lamp posts, the City Hall clock, the sheds extending over the sidewalks, the hitching posts and the sign designating the printing office of *The Monitor,* and he would become confused in the maze of traffic while staring in wonder at a trolley car followed by a long line of automobiles. Like Rip Van Winkle, he would be a stranger amid new scenes in his home town.

Look back for a moment upon a few of the landmarks and town institutions that were familiar sights at Trenton's business centre in our grandfathers' days. In the middle of Greene Street, now Broad Street, stood the street market, a long shed-like structure consisting of two buildings, one standing in the rear of the other and the whole extending from a point just north of State Street to Academy Street. The market, in width, covered a little more than the space now taken up by the trolley tracks, leaving room on each side for vehicles.

The first building of the Greene Street Market to be erected was the one running from State Street to Hanover Street. This was built in 1845 at a cost of $2,200. Greene Street at this time was widened from State to Academy Street by an additional fifteen feet at a cost of $600, which brought the entire cost of the market up to $2,800. The market was open for occupancy in August and the first sale of stalls brought $634.

In 1848, the second building, reaching from Hanover Street to Academy Street, was erected at a cost of $2,000.

The Greene Street Market was a busy scene on market days. It was here that the farmers came from miles around the city to sell their produce and at the same time to do their shopping.

And it was here also, that the local butchers, who then did their own slaughtering as well as selling, had their stands.

At the beginning of the market, going north, stood the popular newspaper stand of the down-town section, which was well patronized by Trenton's leading business and professional men. On the signboard at the front of the stand was inscribed:—

NORTH BROAD STREET IN THE EARLY 1860'S

> *"N. Y. Tribune, Times, Philadelphia Ledger, Press and Inquirer, Frank Leslie's, Harper's Weekly, N. Y. Illustrated News,* and Other Weekly Papers."

The activity in the Greene Street Market could always be depended upon to provide material for the local newspapers, especially when town happenings were so few as not to produce enough "copy" to fill the local column. Hence an item published years ago:

> "The lovers of good beef will have an opportunity of seeing something to tempt the appetite. Michael Meyer, whose stand is in the lower market directly opposite this office (40 North Greene Street,) will exhibit in the streets two steers, raised by Alfred Black, near Jobstown, Burling-

ton County, coming six years old and weighing 5,000 pounds. Mr. Meyer paid $475 for the pair, and will slaughter them for market next Tuesday, when our citizens, who can afford it, may have one of the finest cuts ever perhaps offered in our market."

NORTH BROAD STREET TODAY

In the following issue of the newspaper appears:—

"The huge beeves mentioned yesterday, belonging to Michael Meyer, were driven through town this morning, and elicited the admiration of all our citizens who saw them. Many of them are doubtless preparing themselves for a feast of fat things, when these cattle are slaughtered and brought to market."

Two other items appearing at later dates tell of the killing of the cattle and the placing of the meat for sale at the market.

In his day Michael Meyer was one of the best known butchers of the town. For a number of years he lived in a large frame

dwelling that stood on the site of the Blakely Laundry building, corner of North Montgomery Street and Brunswick Avenue. His slaughterhouse was nearby.

The Greene Street Market was a well-known stand for the sale of fish. The following item from the *State Gazette,* April 28, 1851, referring to this market and other places where fish were then sold in the town, is a reminder of the days when sturgeon were plentiful in the Delaware:

> "Sturgeon went off like hot cakes in our markets on Saturday. One dealer cut up and sold seven fine large fellows at 5 cents per pound. Pickled sturgeon is rather a delicious dish fixed up after the style of some of our Lamberton fishermen."

Saturday nights were "big" nights in old Trenton, and especially busy ones at the Greene Street Market. Franklin S. Mills, local reporter for the *Gazette,* gives us a discription of a Saturday night life in the centre-of-town eighty years ago:—

> A Saturday night in Trenton seems to be particularly appropriated to promenading by the 'under ten.' Seven hundred and fourteen persons passed the corner of Warren and Second from 8 o'clock to 10 last Saturday night. Some with a lady on each arm; others admirably paired off—and hundreds were promenading single-handed and alone. The industrious mechanic, with his neatly dressed wife—on one arm, and a capacious market basket on the other—making his purchases for the Sabbath. It is amusing and instructive to sit for an hour, and contemplate the passing crowd—to speculate on the destiny of each—to mark the hurried step of some, and the snail-like movement of others. Some bearing the evidences of excessive toil, and others of comparative ease. But all must yield at last to that leveller of distinctions, Death!"

In the trying days of the Civil War when military camps were located on the outskirts of the city, incoming troops were furnished with rations at the market.

The year 1870 saw the passing of the Greene Street Market. Following its demolition came the period when the City, Washington, Central and People's markets, were erected. With the

Greene Street Market also passed one of the important offices in the life of older Trenton—the office of clerk of the market. At one time this position paid only $50 a year. It was a position that carried with it no end of trouble, nevertheless there were always many applicants for the office. The clerk was custodian of the market and his word was law. He had charge of the renting of the stalls and general supervision over all. On market days, he opened the place of business and during the set hours for marketing any farmer selling produce upon the streets was liable to be arrested.

The Greene Street Market, however, was not a new local institution. For years prior to its erection, the town had a market in Second Street, now State Street, between Broad and Warren Streets, and this was preceded by a market in Warren Street running north of State Street.

THE SECOND STREET MARKET

The market in Second Street, or Market Street, as it was commonly known during the time the town market was located there, was erected in 1793, and like the Greene Street institution, it consisted of two buildings. One of these buildings was for the sale of truck and the other for meat. The roof of the market was shingled and it was supported by pillars of brick. One of the structures was surmounted by a cupola with bell that announced the opening of the market for business.

When the city fathers decided to erect the market in Second Street, considerable opposition arose among some of the citizens against the location. The opposition became so great that, one night in October, 1793, at a time when the market was under construction, some irate citizens pulled down the brick pillars. This caused a stir in the town and brought forth speeches of indignation and threats of prosecution from the town fathers. Several citizens were summoned before the governing body, but from all accounts, no evidence was secured and the guilty persons were never apprehended. Council ordered new and larger pillars to be erected and two citizens were appointed as watchmen to do duty about the place. The work was continued without further hindrance and in the course of time the market was completed.

In 1807 an ordinance was passed by council requiring that the market in Second Street be protected from the passage of wagons during the market hours, by two chains to be stretched across the thoroughfare at each end of the market. In other words vehicular traffic was not allowed to pass through Second Street from Warren to Broad Streets, during the hours set aside for marketing.

The market in Second Street, besides serving as a place for the sale of food and domestic products, was a good stand for the traveling preacher, lecturer and medicine man who were always assured of an audience ready to listen to whatever was offered, ranging from a new theory in religion to a snake oil that would cure all ills. The *Sheet Anchor of Democracy,* May 16, 1843, under the heading, "Varieties in Trenton," gives us an idea of some of the stray talent that amused or instructed our grandfathers in the old market house.

> "We have in Trenton, in addition to the good things of the season, a variety of talent, religious, comical and dramatic. For two or three nights last week the Market House was crowded with attentive listeners, first to an eccentric preacher on some doctrine of his own, and afterwards to a melodramatist, who recited Shakespeare with a stentorian voice, and filled up the time with occasional passes of wit and humor, and imitations of members of Congress, broken down players and stars in the ascendant."

In 1844 the market in Second Street was found to be inadequate. On market days the place was filled to its capacity. Council decided to have a new and larger market and accordingly the market in Greene Street was erected. The old market in Second Street was sold for $76.50 and removed from the street where it had stood for half a century.

WARREN STREET MARKET

The market in Warren Street is believed to have been Trenton's first institution of its kind. Evidently it was built in Colonial times. At its southern end stood the original town pump, the whipping post and the stocks, or pillory, according to Raum, the

historian.* Then came the time for the old building to go and at a meeting of Common Council held December 21, 1792, a resolution was passed to dispose of the landmark on the grounds that it had outlived its usefulness. Finally the market was sold to James B. Machett for five pounds, one shilling and six pence and subsequently it was removed from the street.

OTHER MARKET HOUSES

There were two other places of business that are worthy of mention—the fish and the charcoal markets. The former was a small affair which stood along West State Street near Warren Street. "Charlie" Jay, town wit and satirist, described it as the "diminutive box, honored by the name of the Fish Market," in an article on old Trenton, published in the *Trenton Daily News,* April 9, 1847. The building is said to have been demolished in the late 1830's.

The Charcoal Market goes back to the days when this product was brought to Trenton in long wagons from the pines. The place of business was at one of the corners of State and Warren Streets. Wood was also offered for sale by the cord or half cord at the same stand.

One of the first, if not the first, to fill the position of official corder of wood for Trenton, was John Sunderland, who was appointed at a meeting of Common Council, September 4, 1797. On a motion of that body, he was to receive 8 pence for measuring, one half to be paid by the purchaser and the other half by the seller.

THE TOWN PUMP

The proverbial town pump has been the subject of song and story. Trenton's public pump occupied a site along the curb line near the northwesterly corner of State and Broad Streets. For many years it served as a popular institution where citizens and wayfarers were refreshed and as a meeting place for the town gossipers. Like all material things, its time was limited. With

*The Street Commissioners were authorized to remove this pump and fill up the well at a meeting of Council, October 18, 1798. The well was unearthed by workmen in November 1852. The pillory was removed to the courthouse and jail when the city fathers met there. The whipping post was removed and later re-erected in front of the Town House which stood on Academy Street.

EAST STATE STREET IN THE 1860'S

the growth of the city and the beginning of civic pride, the old pump became the object of numerous attacks. However, it was not without supporters, but the march of progress had begun and on Tuesday, December 27, 1870, the pump succumbed.

Under the heading "Farewell to the Old Pump" the following obituary notice was written by a local reporter:

EAST STATE STREET TODAY—LOOKING WEST FROM BROAD

> "Old way-marks of life help to make the journey pleasant. We grow accustomed to an old tree, an old house, an old pump, an old barn by the roadside. Love for the old is a conservative feeling. We have little conservatism in our land. Changes come rapidly and 'progress' as it is called, is the law that governs. Thus, we moralize respecting the old pump. It is gone but the services it has rendered entitle it to graceful mention."

And while speaking of the pump we must not overlook the clumsy iron ladle which served at the pump in the days before the sanitary paper drinking cup was thought of. This ladle or

dipper was of peculiar construction and had a sort of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde makeup, having an unruly side as well as a pleasing one. This was because of its peculiar construction and the knowledge of how to use it. To those who knew it, all went well, but to all others not acquainted with its eccentricities, it was a source of annoyance not entirely devoid of humor. The antics of the old dipper are well told in the following extracts from a letter signed "old inhabitant" which was published some time ago in a local newspaper:—

> "That dipper was a delusion and a snare to the uninitiated. It was about the size, shape and depth of an ordinary table saucer, and as fast as one pumped water into it, it splashed out, to the annoyance of the holder and of ladies and men who happened to be passing. Only by waiting and catching the 'drippings' of the pumping could the pumper get water to satisfy his thirst."

The same writer mentions also that the dipper was suspended by a chain about the size and strength of an ordinary trace chain. He informs us it had to be strong, because the boys of the late 1850's and the early 1860's were quite as mischievous as those of today.

THE TOWN CLOCK

Gone also is the City Hall clock, one of the last members of that family of centre-of-town institutions. The death warrant of the clock was definitely sealed at a meeting of the City Commission held June 19, 1926, when that body decided that the old timepiece must go. Excessive cost of repairs to the tower and annual maintenance expense were the reasons advanced for this decision. The passing of a resolution at a later meeting put the warrant into effect.

The City Hall clock was placed in position in 1882. It was a Seth Thomas and was purchased through the firm of Cook & Jacques. For nearly ninety years a clock has been on the site.

The original town clock, which was smaller than its substitute, occupied a place in the front of the building near the peak of the roof. This of course was before the mansard roof and other alterations had been made to the City Hall. This clock previously was in the steeple of the First Presbyterian Church, which

occupied a site on the church lot before the present house of worship was built.

The timepiece was the work of James Houston, an ingenious mechanic, who is said to have been in the employ of John Probasco. Houston died at Montreal, Canada, in 1822.

The clock had three dials, "so that the time could be readily seen, approach the church from whatever quarter you might" says Raum in his *History of Trenton.* Its running and regulation were looked after by a committee of council and their trials and tribulations, in connection with it were plenty. For awhile it registered time faithfully and then it began to lag and the citizens of the town who depended upon it found themselves several hours behind. Bill after bill was paid for repairs. Finally in 1820 council refused to bother with it any longer and for weeks the clock remained still. A number of citizens subscribed to a fund of $150 to keep the timepiece in repair, but when the work was done less than half of the money could be collected and council had to pay the balance—$98.53. Council then appointed John Probasco as official custodian of the town clock at a salary of $20 a year.

For a time the clock gave no trouble—until 1827 when it began to cut up queer antics. After an investigation it was discovered the machinery of the clock was damaged every time the sexton tolled the bell. Accordingly the trustees of the church were asked to provide some contrivance to toll the bell without injury to the town clock. This was done and the old clock continued on its regular daily duty.

THE TOWN BELL

With the passing of the City Hall clock went also the bell—a relic with a local history dating back to the time of the erection of the old City Hall in 1837. In Volunteer days it was rung to the alarm of fire and during the time Trenton's only amusement place was in the City Hall, it announced the opening of the performance. And in addition to this, it has recorded many events in the history of the nation. The bell was cast in 1836. It was about three and a half feet high and is said to have weighed approximately 800 pounds. Probably the last time it was rung was on Armistice Day when the clapper broke.

THE LAMP POSTS

The flames in the centre-of-town gas-lighted lamp posts assumed the dimness of their oil-illuminated predecessors on Saturday evening, January 10, 1885, when the long anticipated electric light made its appearance. The citizens greeted the

WARREN STREET ABOUT THE 1850's
(Looking north from State Street)

dazzling globes suspended at the front of stores along the south side of State Street and both sides of Greene Street with exclamations of surprise and pleasure. "Many people stood along State and Greene Streets forgetful of the cold in their admiration of these thoroughfares' illuminated brilliantly," according to a report in the local press.

All in all, the town had 30 lights, which were supplied power by a dynamo located at Cubberly & Kafer's carpenter shop, South Stockton Street. The engine could only furnish light for 60 globes and these were all taken, the additional 30 having been called for to be used at the State House and at the Post Office. Power was on from 5 P. M. until midnight.

In speaking of the possibilities of illuminating Taylor Opera House by electricity, President Taylor, of Taylor Opera House, expressed the belief that one globe would adequately light the place if it were not for the shadows that the balcony would throw.

The first exhibition of electric street lighting in the city took place on Saturday evening, November 12, 1881, at Broad and

NORTH WARREN STREET TODAY

State Streets. This consisted of a single lamp suspended from a rope stretched from the State Gazette building to buildings on the opposite side of Broad Street. The power was furnished by a dynamo placed in the pressroom of the State Gazette. When the new light burst forth in all its radiance, applause came from the large crowd at the corner. After an hour, the light was turned off and a demonstration of operating a Wheeler and Wilson sewing machine by the power was given in the city clerk's office in the old City Hall. The exhibition was given by the New York Electric Light Association, under the direction of Prof. Daft.

On Saturday evening, September 16, 1886, a number of electric arc lights placed at different corners by Common Council, were lit for the first time.

In Colonial and Revolutionary days Trenton's only street lighting was that afforded by the dim glow of the lanterns that hung at the front of the taverns. Street lighting seemed to be of little or no importance until the year of 1804, when some ultra-progressive individual had the matter brought before Common Council. The project, however, failed to carry that body. Some of the city fathers considered it an extravagance.

It was not until years later that street lighting was established in Trenton. The first lamps erected by council were ordinary oil-burning ones placed upon rough-hewn posts. This innovation eventually brought with it another official position—lamplighter. For a number of years the clerk of the market served in this capacity.

In recent years a great change has taken place in the city's street lighting system. By the authorization of the City Commission, Trenton is completely relighted, with many of the down-town streets illuminated by an underground system. Even further development is planned.

THE HAY SCALES

So much for the street markets, the lamp posts, the pumps, the town clock and the bell. And now we come to another institution of by-gone days. This was the town hay scales. What is believed to have been the first proposal for the exclusive privilege to erect and operate an official hay scales in Trenton was made by Benjamin Yard at a meeting of the Common Council, March 29, 1800. The matter was laid over for consideration.

In 1836 Isaac Barnes operated the official scales, the privilege being granted to him by ordinance of June 11 of that year. Barnes was succeeded on October 9, 1848, by Lafayette Stradling.

At one time the official hay scales of the town was located on East State Street, opposite the First Presbyterian Church.* Picture East State Street today with several loaded hay wagons awaiting to use a hay scales along that thoroughfare. And the curtain drops on the scenes of yesterday.

* In later years the hay scales stood on Willow Street, near Bank Street.

THE CITY HALL

RECALL the early days of Common Council. The very mention of the name of this body conjures up memorable scenes of stormy sessions between representatives of the various wards—sessions that at times fairly sizzled. What serious thought and heated debate ensued when opposition arose on the placing of a lamp post or the building of a drain! And what thunderous rebuke was accorded the councilmen from the West End by the representatives from East or South Trenton, if it so happened that too many improvements were bestowed upon the western folk!

Such scenes are indelibly associated with the old City Hall building, now the Broad-State building, at the northeasterly corner of Broad and State Streets, which was Trenton's house of administration and political mecca for more than 70 years.

ALSO JAIL AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Aside from providing quarters for the City Fathers and offices for the Mayor and other city officials, the City Hall housed the local jail and the police headquarters. In the same building the Mayor held court where petty offenders were sentenced as in the police court of today.

AN AMUSEMENT HALL

During its early years the City Hall served as one of the first amusement places in the city. In its spacious assembly hall, lectures and exhibitions of various kinds, and public and private functions were held. There the traveling magician, the bell ringers, the dramatic and minstrel troupes presented their performances to the delight of past generations; and there also the showman exhibited his curiosities and freaks, automatons and mechanical wonders, and gaudy-painted panoramas. As a matter of fact the old City Hall at one time embodied much of the public activities in Trenton, succeeding to some degree, the City

Tavern where many of the town affairs were held following the Revolution.

THE ORIGINAL BUILDING—ERECTED 1837-1838

STAGE CELEBRITIES WHO PLAYED HERE

A number of entertainers, lecturers and showmen appeared before Trenton audiences in the old assembly room several decades before the erection of Taylor Opera House. In all likelihood the two outstanding show people who appeared there were General

"Tom" Thumb, the famous midget and his manager, that celebrated showman and "King of Humbug," Phineas T. Barnum. The Sable Harmonists came in 1847; Rush Pumley, Indian temperance lecturer, in 1847; Horace Greely, celebrated journalist and lecturer, in 1850; Williams' panorama of the Bible, advertised as "covering 3,000 yards, which is nearly 10 feet wide"; John B. Gough, famous temperance lecturer, in 1851; Herr Henry Anderson, renowned magician and ventriloquist, in 1850; Gester, the magician, with his big gift show in 1850; Prof. Wyman's exhibition of magic, automatons and performance in ventriloquism, in 1850; famous diorama of Napoleon's Funeral, in 1851; Panorama of California, in 1850; Ehihu Buritt, the learned blacksmith, in 1858; and a diorama, the Burning of Moscow. One of the first amusement enterprises to show in the building was Mrs. Schenck's display of wax figures which opened on the evening of February 14, 1840.

During the month of August in 1851, Leonard's Players, a dramatic troup, opened an engagement in the assembly room which was then advertised as a theatre.

FIRST HOME OF TRENTON SAVING FUND SOCIETY

And now we come to a low cost in rental which in itself reflects small town life. Any one desiring to use the assembly room in the City Hall for a lecture, show or exhibition was required to pay the city the sum of five dollars, according to an ordinance passed in 1844. The City Hall Committee was also authorized to rent store and offices in the building for the purpose of meeting the running expenses. The stores were located along the State Street side of the building and several of the old-time merchants had their places of business there. One of these merchants was Charles Dippolt, prominent shoe dealer of his time. Another was Joseph Manko, Jewish clothier. The Trenton Saving Fund Society began business and opened its first office in the building in 1847.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The story of the old City Hall touches upon the history of a number of local enterprises and educational movements. At various times, the Trenton Institute, Irving Institute, Mechanics

Institute, and the Constitutional Library held meetings in the building. Several of the old military companies held their drills there and for a short time the post office was located there. In 1838 the Board of Freeholders met in the place until the Mercer County Court House was erected.

In 1843 a Universalist Society was organized in the building. The Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians also held services in the place.

A great occasion that took place in the old City Hall was the farewell accorded to Captain Joseph A. Yard and the company he had recruited for service in Mexico then at war with the United States. Here the company, whose personnel included a number of Trenton boys, was given a dinner. Just previous to leaving the captain was presented with a sword. The company left the city by the way of Greene Street, now Broad Street, and Brunswick Avenue, to the applause and cheers of hundreds of citizens. Another great occasion was the reception given in the building to Former Governor Vroom, late minister to Prussia, upon his return home in September, 1857.

DATE OF ERECTION

The northeasterly corner of Broad and State Streets, then Greene and Second Streets, was chosen as the site for a new City Hall at a meeting of the City Fathers held in English's Tavern, June 8, 1835. We are told the corner was purchased for the sum of $3,000. The corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on June 6, 1837. A bell was purchased and hung in the cupola and the town clock, which had been for years in the steeple of the First Presbyterian Church, was placed in position. The City Hall was used for the first time on New Year's night, January 1, 1838, when a dance was held in the large assembly room. The building, however, was not completed at this time.

One of the early owners of the corner was Nathan Wright. On a judgment placed against the land, it was sold in 1760 by sheriff's sale to Samuel Henry, iron manufacturer, for the sum of 82 pounds. In 1780 Bernard Hanlon, one of the first potters of Trenton, who was then occupying the stone house on the premises, advertised for sale stoneware made at his pottery.

THE OLD CITY HALL WAS REMODELLED AS A BUSINESS STRUCTURE WHEN THE NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING WAS OPENED IN 1910

Two years later Jacob Maus, clock and watchmaker, conducted his business there. In 1797 James Emerson had his hat shop in the dwelling. In 1799 Mary Emerson offered the property for sale. A claim was placed against it by Nathan Wright. Sometime after the property came into the possession of Joseph Milnor, a leading merchant who conducted a general store at the State Gazette corner. Milnor had his garden, stable and outbuildings on the tract. In 1816 the estate was offered for sale by L. H. Stockton. At that time Arvin Kennedy was operating a dyeing establishment in the dwelling. In 1832 Jane Hart was the owner of the property. Four years later it was offered for sale by Jane Hart and Armitage Green.

FROM CITY HALL TO BUSINESS BUILDING

The completion of Trenton's new Municipal Building on East State Street in 1910 brought to a close administrative and political history at the corner of Broad and State Streets. The old building was sold and its interior entirely renovated for business purposes. The building today is known as the State-Broad Building. While many alterations have been made to the exterior, the general outline of the structure is the same as it was at the time of its erection. The greatest alteration was the erection of a mansard roof, which made possible an additional story, and the placing of a new cupola a number of years ago while it was still the City Hall.

MEMORIES OF OTHER DAYS

The scenes familiar to the older generation at the front of the old City Hall are now but memories. The statue of the "gilded" fireman, which stood along the curb line, was removed several years ago and the midnight institution on wheels—"Pete" Curtin's lunchwagon—has joined the shadows of the street market and the town pump. But the building, itself, still remains and in all probability it will stay for a number of years to come.

An institution, once associated with the old City Hall, was a house for vagrants commonly known as the "Paupers' Roost." The "Roost" was a small frame shack and it is believed to have adjoined the larger building on the State Street side. Here destitute travelers were given food and a lodging for the night.

THE BUILDING—APRIL, 1926. THE CLOCK AND TOWER HAVE SINCE BEEN REMOVED

Eight cents was allowed the keeper of the city hall for each meal served.

The Mayor of the city called attention to the loose manner in which the "Paupers' Roost" was being conducted at a meeting of the Common Council, March 1, 1852, when he recommended that alterations be made to the building. His Honor referred to the "roost" as a place that was more of a resort for drunkards and vagabonds instead of a shelter for the really destitute. "Those who understand the ropes," said the Mayor, "after spending their money in drunkenness turned into the 'roost' without permits. Twenty-two persons lodged in this place on Friday night with permits and five without permits."

The "Paupers' Roost" at last was condemned as a common nuisance and was sold for the sum of $25. The little landmark was removed January 6, 1853.

EAST HANOVER STREET

ONCE a quiet residential quarter where a number of prominent citizens resided, East Hanover Street is now one of Trenton's busy marts, noted locally for its auto tire and accessories shops and real estate offices. Perhaps no other street in the city today typifies the growth of Trenton so well as does East Hanover Street. Nothing is so descriptive of a growing city as the spectacle of an old and dignified locality giving way slowly year after year to the inevitable pressure of an already overly-crowded business area. Such is the condition of East Hanover Street at the present time, particularly that section of it extending east of Montgomery Street, where once beautiful residences have been remodeled into commercial houses.

The East Hanover Street today is a street vastly commercialized but still with evidences of going through the transitional period of progress, being representative of three stages of growth —the old-time residence of several decades standing, the remodeled house with modern store front, and the all-modern business house. The last-named is exemplified by the Fitzcharles, and the Hurley-Tobin Company buildings. Enough of the old yet remains as a connecting link of the days when East Hanover Street was a quiet centre-of-town residential retreat.

A glance at the old-time photograph gives one the impression of a scene of the main street of a fair-sized country town. The building with the tower shown in the right foreground has all the earmarks of a town hall. At the time this picture was snapped, it was the headquarters of the Trenton Hose Company, No. 1, of Volunteer days. This building still stands, but greatly changed.

At one time William Hewitt conducted Lodge Hotel next door. The place was later kept by "Charlie" Fow. Nearby was the old Arcade noted for its shooting gallery and as one of the meeting places of the City Invincibles. Albert Huber was the proprietor and he opened the house on the evening of May 15, 1875, under the name of the "Arcade Theatre." An item in the

Daily True American announced the new place of amusement as having a neat hall, a seating capacity for 500 persons, a stage 23 feet wide by 21 feet deep equipped with 6 scenes, 2 drop curtains,

EAST HANOVER STREET FROM BROAD STREET. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN YEARS AGO

footlights, etc. Near the site of the Arcade a Mr. McCauley operated an oilcloth factory in 1847. On the opposite side of the street lived Timothy Field, who in 1856 laid at the front of his home what is believed to have been the first iron pavement in Trenton. The pavement was manufactured at the Field Iron Foundry.

"Guyerville" or "Comancheville" were the names applied by the local press in the late 1840's to a dilapidated building that stood near the end of Hanover Street. Once a noble dwelling —perhaps the retreat of a man of wealth and prominence—it seems to have been forsaken by its owner. The new occupants no doubt found the place a most pleasant one, free from rent, tax

EAST HANOVER FROM BROAD

and the many other responsibilities of a well-regulated city life. The old residence met its fate in 1848, and it was with a sigh of relief that the town police and nearby residents read of its obituary in *The State Gazette,* October 17 of that year:

> "The old rookery, occupying the business corner of that part of the city known as 'Guyerville,' has been demolished to make way for some kind of improvement. This was one of the most venerable mansions in the city, but we grieve to say that of late years, it has been sadly given to bad company, etc."

"Portico Row" and "Mechanics Row" were other names familiarly known to East Hanover Street residents years ago.

WAS A RAILROAD CENTRE

East Hanover Street has also reflected the early days of local railroading. At the southwest corner of Broad and Hanover Streets stood the first railroad station, a shabby shed-like structure with ticket office and a waiting room. From this terminal a line of track extended down Hanover Street to Stockton, to the canal and along the west bank of that waterway to a point southerly where it turned westward to the old railroad bridge and over that structure to Morrisville. Here it connected with the steam line running to Philadelphia. Coming to Trenton the cars (called trains) were detached from the engine and the journey continued by horse power. In leaving the city the horses were detached from the cars at the same point (Morrisville) and the journey to Philadelphia continued by steam power.*

AN ANCIENT LINE OF TRAVEL

East Hanover Street is one of Trenton's original lines of travel, being designated as Third Street at the time of the Revolution. This was in keeping in numerical order with State Street as Second Street and Academy Street as Fourth Street. Lots were offered for sale along this thoroughfare as early as 1746.

East Hanover Street has some historical significance, for it was down this street that a number of the Hessians retreated to the apple orchard where the surrender took place at the Battle of Trenton. At the corner of East Hanover and North Montgomery Streets stands the Friends Meeting House, a Colonial and Revolutionary landmark. Adjoining the Friends' lot, once stood a meeting house for negroes with a graveyard on the premises. Before its removal, the building was used for a public school for colored children.

The narrow end of the funnel stretch of East Hanover Street, once noted for its "liquid refreshment stations" and eating houses, is reminiscent of Morris' Lane, laid out by William Morris in the 1740's. In Revolutionary days it was called Pinkerton's

*From an article by William H. Backes, "First Bridge Over the River Was Built Here," *Sunday Times-Advertiser,* February 18, 1917.

Alley, named for David Pinkerton, a local landowner and merchant. The engine house of the Union Fire Company once stood along this part of Hanover Street. It is yet but a narrow lane, but its memories as a centre for the gay life of the town still linger—The National Hotel, The Exchange, Hildebrecht's, the Trenton House.

Hanover Street is believed to have been named for the House of Hanover, associated with the royalty of England.

THE GREENE STREET CHURCH

LOCAL Methodists can look back with considerable pride to the year 1838. The followers in Trenton were seeking a new home. The little meeting house known as "Bethseda" at the corner of Broad and Academy Streets was no longer adequate for the growing church organization. A larger place of worship was found to be necessary.

THE GREENE STREET CHURCH

After some deliberation among the members of the congregation, it was finally decided to erect a new edifice on another site near the centre-of-town. Accordingly, the meeting house was sold to the Orthodox Friends, and a plot of land was purchased on the westerly side of Greene Street (Broad), just below Second Street (State), and a new house of worship was erected upon it.

The new church was a large three-story building of brick construction and for years was one of Trenton's familiar landmarks. It was dedicated on Sunday, September 9, 1838, with appropriate exercises and it was called the "Trenton Methodist Episcopal Church." With the inception of the Front Street

Methodist Church in 1846, which previously was a Dutch Reformed Church, the mother organization became known as the "Greene Street Church." In 1894 the name was again changed to the "First Methodist Episcopal Church." Up to the year of 1922, the mother church has witnessed the beginning of thirteen Methodist churches in Trenton.

THE PRESENT EDIFICE

In 1894 the brick edifice was demolished and in its place the present church, an imposing structure of light granite and brick in Romanesque style, was erected in its place. On May 5, of the following year, it was dedicated.

N. B.—The chapter on the Methodist Meeting House tells of the early history of this church organization.

THE GOLDEN SWAN OR TRUE AMERICAN CORNER

TO REFER to early Trenton journalism without mention of Judge David Naar would be like calling the roll of the legislature and forgetting to name the speaker of the house. So far as New Jersey newspaper men are concerned, David Naar in his time was every bit "the speaker" and perhaps a little bit more.

David Naar's name is synonymous with that of the old *True American* and any story that is written about this almost forgotten newspaper must have his figure moving through it as a leading character.

Judge Naar assumed control of the paper in the early 1850's and from that time on to the day when he laid down his pen in retirement it was a living exponent of his own ideas and ideals of Democracy. He was even known as the "War Horse of Democracy," and his virile editorials made the newspaper one of the most distinctive journals in the State. Even in succeeding years under the editorship of Moses D., and afterwards Joseph L. Naar, it continued to hold its prestige. These three Naars were able successors to James J. Wilson, who, before them, had figured in many a hotly contested political battle.*

Judge Naar was one of the fiery Democrats who was outspoken in criticising the vigorous war measures of the Federal administration. The administration put restrictions upon the press. The *Daily True American,* the State organ for Democracy, then suspended its daily publication from August 24 to October 7, 1861. The weekly edition, however, was continued. Judge Naar declared that "free discussion is the only safeguard of a Republican people" and this should not be characterized as treason.

*The Naar family is one of the prominent families in the history of New Jersey, whose members, representing several generations, attained public office, and exemplified themselves in the legal and journalistic professions. The family record dates back to the time of the discovery of America by Columbus.

The *Daily True American* was published at 40 Greene Street, now Broad Street, one door north of the City Hall, now Broad-State Building, when Judge Naar became its owner and editor.

"THE GOLDEN SWAN" OR TRUE AMERICAN CORNER

In the publishing of this paper, Mr. Naar was assisted by Franklin S. Mills, well-known local journalist. The first issue of the newspaper under the name of Naar was published April 4, 1853.

In December of 1855, Judge Naar purchased the building at the southwesterly corner of Warren and State Streets, and about two years later he removed the publishing business to that corner.

On the ground floor were located the office and the printing shop while the Naar family lived in the upper stories. At one time, Jewish services were held in the building. In the stirring days of the Civil War the place was a stronghold of Democracy.

On Monday, April 1, 1872, the *Daily True American* removed to Trenton's famous literary corner, the southeasterly corner of Broad and State Streets.

THE SAME CORNER TODAY

WAS A POPULAR HOSTELRY

Years before scribes and publishers located at Warren and Front Streets, the building had its glories as a well-established public house patronized by members of the State Legislature and other prominent figures who did business in the town. It was generally known as "The Golden Swan," although the different proprietors advertised it under variations of that name such as "Sign of the Swan," "Swan Inn" or "Mechanics' Hall."

The building is believed to have been erected about 1815 and was one of the largest constructions in the town at that time. William Hancock, who was probably the original owner, adver-

tises it for sale in the *Trenton Federalist,* May 22, 1815. The place is described in the advertisement as a "new three-story brick house constructed of the very best material, five rooms and pantry on the first floor, six rooms on the second, nine on the third, finished garret with six rooms, also good four-room kitchen attached."

In the summer of 1815 Thomas Barnes, Jr., and William Van Hart, trading under the name of William Van Hart & Company opened a shoemaking establishment there. The place was advertised for rent by David McKean in the *Trenton Federalist,* February 4, 1822. This advertisement named John Voorhees as the occupant. In the early summer of 1824 it was advertised for sale or for rent. Peter Smick, tavern keeper, was the occupant. In *The Emporium,* April 15, 1826, Joseph Palmer advertised he had removed "to the tavern stand, Sign of the Golden Swan," Front and Warren Streets.

Later proprietors of "The Golden Swan" were Joel Gordon, Isaac Pitcher, Mrs. Pitcher and Samuel Quicksall.

After the Naars had vacated the Warren and Front Street corner, the place was used for various purposes. One of the enterprises to do business there was the firm of Mathias Miller and John Hartman, upholsterers and manufacturers of furniture, trading under the name of Miller & Hartman.

Carll Sons' Company, tinsmiths, occupied the place a few years ago.

The building has changed in the past few years. While the exterior lines remain essentially the same, the lower floor presents a very different appearance. The present building and adjoining structures are now occupied by the Hearnen Electric Service. Mr. J. Harry Hearnen began business in the store next to the corner structure in 1907, first as a locksmith. Later he began a battery business and today has a very extensive electrical, auto supply and radio trade in addition to the lock and safe establishment. Hearnen took over the building about six years ago.

MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WHEN our grandfathers were strolling around under "stove-pipe" hats and Trenton itself was only half-grown among cities, there was something going on in the little settlement of Mill Hill that was to mark a new era in a whole section of the State. At this time the event was in the hands of hodcarriers and masons.

To be more to the point this laying of brick was the actual construction of a courthouse for the newly-formed County of Mercer. This change was significant in more ways than one, for it not only marked new political boundaries, but also actually made Trenton the seat of the county government.

Mercer county was created in 1838 from portions of Hunterdon, Burlington, Middlesex and Somerset counties. The following year the courthouse was erected, on a tract of land at the corner of South Broad and Market Streets in the settlement of Mill Hill, now a part of Trenton. The building was an imposing structure of Grecian style of architecture, with Corinthian columns front and back. It was constructed of brick, stuccoed or rough cast, and surmounting it was a cupola with bell that announced the opening of the courts. Immediately to the north stood the office of the county clerk and to the south the office of the surrogate, both built of the same kind of material as the main structure and in keeping with its architecture.

OLD-TIME CELEBRATIONS

The county buildings were set back some distance from the street line and at the front along South Broad Street was a fine lawn shaded by several large and beautiful trees. Here a number of outdoor meetings and celebrations associated with the life of older Trenton were held. One of these affairs was a patriotic demonstration conducted as a part of Trenton's Centennial Fourth of July observance. The late Judge Edward T. Green was the

orator of the day and the program also included the singing of patriotic songs, speeches, readings, and musical numbers.

A somewhat similar event, but held in the building, was on July 4, 1847, during the war with Mexico. Lieutenant Samuel G. French, a son of New Jersey, who won his spurs for dis-

THE ORIGINAL MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

tinguished service on the battlefields of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey and Buena Vista, was presented with an elegantly wrought sword by a number of his fellow citizens as a token of their appreciation. The orator of this July 4th observance was the Rev. Luther Halsey, of Perth Amboy. The secretary of the Society of the Cincinnati read the Declaration of Independence and members of that organization, the military and citizens of Trenton and vicinity participated in the ceremonies. At the close of the program, the banquet table was spread at three of the leading taverns of the city.

At least one president of the United States spoke in the old courthouse. He was Franklin Pierce, who accompanied by members of his cabinet, visited Trenton on July 13, 1853. Before an audience that crowded the court room to the doors, the Chief Executive of the nation was welcomed by Chief Justice Henry W. Green on behalf of the citizens of Trenton. The

THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE

President responded with an address. The next speaker was Hon. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, who later became a notable figure as President of the Confederacy. Addresses were also given by Hon. Mr. Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury, and General Caleb Cushing, Attorney-General.

THE FAMOUS RUBBER CASE

In 1852 the old courthouse was the scene of the famous Goodyear vs. Day rubber case, the outcome of the alleged infringement by Horace Day of the patent of Charles Goodyear.

Two of the nation's legal lights of the time—Daniel Webster, Secretary of State and superb orator, and Honorable Rufus Choate, former United States Senator—clashed in this legal battle. The case was brought to a close with an address by Webster which is said to be one of the finest legal arguments ever made. This address figuratively "demolished" the defense for

THE JAIL BUILDING WHICH WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1912

Day and established the rights for Charles Goodyear whose name since that time has been acclaimed in national history as the inventor of the process for the vulcanizing of rubber.

In the early days of the county, facilities for travel, of course, were not as adequate as they are today. Residents living in remote sections who attended the courts came by carriage over rough country roads. As the journey and court session took up a greater part of the day, it was the usual custom to remain in the city over night and when business demanded, to stop over for several days. This was at a time when the old Mercer County Hotel, which stood on the site of the Mercer Trust Company

building, and the old-time merchants of the Mill Hill section did a flourishing business.

Mention of the old courthouse stirs recollections of the period when each county took the lives of its own murderers. Here the gallows performed its duty when the occasion demanded it. Mercer County had been formed for more than

THE PRESENT JAIL BUILDING

twenty years when the first hanging took place. This was on April 3, 1863, when one Lewis swung for the killing of Rowan, a Princeton jeweler. The last hanging was of Charles Long, a negro, for the murder of Matthew Cunningham, also a negro. This took place in January, 1906. Since that time a law providing for the electrocution of murderers was enacted by the State.

The county buildings were designed by Charles Stedman, of Princeton. The corner stone of the main building was laid by Judge William L. Dayton, April 20, 1839, and it was first occupied by the courts at the June term, 1840. The structure was

dedicated at that time, the Rev. Charles Pitman, pastor of the First Methodist Church, giving the invocation, and the presiding judge, William L. Dayton, making appropriate remarks in his charge to the grand jury.*

The old bell which figured in a number of recent Fourth of July celebrations in Stacy Park, was cast by G. H. Holbrook at East Medway, Mass., in 1840, and it is said to have been hung in the cupola of the old courthouse soon after the building was finished. This bell acclaimed the event of the first message sent over the Atlantic cable, the news of the capture of Richmond and tolled for the death of Lincoln.

With the growth of the county, the old courthouse was found to be inadequate to meet the increasing business, and during the month of July, 1900, the freeholders decided to erect a modern and more spacious structure upon the site. The following year witnessed the demolition of the old building and its adjuncts, the county offices and the courts removing to temporary quarters in nearby structures.

The county court was removed to the basement of the Central M. E. Church and the first case tried in the edifice was one involving manslaughter. The defendant was found guilty and was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment by Judge Gummere.

On May 14, 1902, the corner stone of the courthouse was laid.

The lot upon which the courthouse stands figured in Mill Hill history for near the corner of Broad and Market Streets stood the little frame engine house of the Eagle Fire Company of that settlement. The building was erected in 1821 at a cost of $17.67 for lumber and $5 for labor. In 1836 the company removed to the lower floor of the Mill Hill school house. On another portion of the lot stood the little cooper shop of Jared L. Cool which was destroyed by fire during the month of August, 1837.

The first jail of Mercer County was in the basement of the old courthouse which was fitted up for that purpose when the building was erected. It was from this place Edward alias "Piggy" Norton, notorious local character, made his escape on the

*The old courthouse and its adjuncts, of course, were enlarged and altered from time to time. The grounds were originally inclosed with a massive iron fence.

night of December 16, 1855, by digging under the wall. In August, 1857, three other prisoners dug their way to liberty. Later the county confined its prisoners in a separate structure which was completed in May, 1867. The county at one time operated a paper bag factory in connection with its jail. There the guests of the county were taught the useful occupation of making paper bags, an industry which was brought to a close when the storekeepers refused to put their goods in wrappers made by prisoners. When John Briest was mayor of Trenton the following doggerel relating to him and the making of paper bags was popular among the boys of the "lime-kiln gang" and other police court characters of the town:—

"Johnnie Briest, he is the ruler—
He's a man of common sense;
If you get drunk he puts you in the cooler
Then soaks you three bills and twenty cents.

If he finds you big and lazy
And your clothes all torn to rags
He sends you over to Sheriff Crozier
Who learns you to make paper bags."

The building known as the old county jail was demolished in September, 1912, and following that time the present building was erected.

Mercer County was named for General Hugh Mercer who lost his life at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777. The first sheriff was Richard Jacques; the first surrogate, William P. Sherman; and the first prosecutor, James Wilson.

THE ELISHA GORDON HOUSE

NOT a year passes that does not witness the demolition of some old landmark. Wonderful homes that years ago saw the brilliance of life within their four walls have gone. These buildings, notable for their solid Colonial design, are leaving us so rapidly that within a few years they may be visible to the future generation only in pictures.

GORDON RESIDENCE
From a sketch by Alex Y. Burslem.

Not long ago one of such buildings yielded to the pick axe. This building was the Gordon House, better known to the present generation as the Moore House, which stood on West State Street opposite the State Capitol Building. While the dwelling itself had no particular historical connections, it possessed several architectural features, notably its Colonial doorway, which, on more than one occasion had attracted the attention of the lovers of antiquity, passing through the city.

One of the occupants and owners of the landmark was Elisha Gordon, a man of means and well-known resident of the city. Gordon was identified with a number of local enterprises, two of them being the development of the Mercer and the Trenton

cemeteries. The latter burial ground was situated back from the westerly side of Princeton Avenue, north of Gordon Street, a small thoroughfare that now bears the name of the cemetery promoter. This particular cemetery was laid out in 1837 and a number of lots were sold. The land, however, proved to be unsuitable for burial purposes and later the cemetery was aban-

APPROACH FROM WEST STATE STREET TO CAPITOL ANNEX AS IT IS TODAY

doned. A large portion of the tract was purchased by the late James S. Robinson, who for many years had a blacksmith shop at the "Five Points" on the site of the present Battle Monument.

After the death of Gordon, the dwelling was sold on March 31, 1841, to the Secretary of State, Charles G. McChesney, who occupied it for more than 10 years. The property was sold at sheriff's sale in 1863 to Rescarrick M. Smith. It was again sold in 1865, the purchaser being Edwin Rex, of Elizabeth, who in turn disposed of it in 1894 to Norman C. Conklin, of New York City. After Conklin sold the property, Mrs. C. Jennie Bamford was the owner for a short period. Henry C. Moore purchased

the house in 1899 and after his death it was owned by his widow, Mrs. Mary C. Moore.

When the old Capitol building was partly destroyed by fire, March 21, 1885, the Moore dwelling was used for State offices, the secretary of State, Henry C. Kelsey, occupying the lower floor. In July, 1922, the property was purchased by the State and for a time it was suggested that the place be kept for a State Museum.

With the erection of the new State Office Building, it was decided to make use of the site as an entrance from West State Street. Its passing was looked upon sadly by many. Broad white steps lead up a series of green terraces as an imposing frontage from West State Street to the office building on West Hanover Street.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

CITIZENS of 1870 saw changes follow one upon another. Trenton at this time seems to have revived from a more or less "sleepy" period so far as improvements are concerned. Civic pride began to assert itself. The market houses, which had stood for years in the middle of Greene Street, now Broad Street, were demolished and the town pump was removed. West Hanover Street was extended easterly to Warren Street. Trenton was growing. The national census was taken and the city was credited with 22,917 persons. A movement was under way for a Federal building. Need was felt for better sewer facilities and improvements to the streets.

It was in this year that St. Mary's Catholic Church was completed. On Sunday, January 1, 1871, the edifice was solemnly dedicated, the Rt. Rev. James Roosevelt Bailey, Bishop of Newark, officiating, assisted by a large number of clergy. Previously the leading Catholic house of worship in Trenton for many years was St. John's which stood on the site of the Church of the Sacred Heart.

BECOMES CATHEDRAL

In 1881 St. Mary's became the cathedral of the Diocese of Trenton. The first bishop was the late Rt. Rev. Michael J. O'Farrell, who was consecrated to that office by Cardinal Archbishop McCloskey in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. His enthronation took place in St. Mary's Cathedral, November 17, 1881.

Bishop O'Farrell was succeeded by the late Rt. Rev. James A. McFaul. Bishop McFaul died June 16, 1917. July 25, 1918, the present Bishop of the Diocese, Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Walsh, D. D., was consecrated by the Apostolic Delegate, his Excellency, Most Rev. John Bonzano, at the Cathedral in Buffalo and installed at St. Mary's Cathedral by Cardinal Hayes, of New York, shortly thereafter.

In 1879 a spire was erected. At that time it was said to be the highest in the State. The late Joseph Trier was the builder and during the course of its construction he encountered and overcame many difficult problems.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PRIOR TO 1879

Mr. Trier's diary tells minutely of the progress of the work, when the clock faces were placed, when the chimes were first played, the fact that the pendulum weighs 300 pounds and other interesting statistics. The following are but a few of the many records relating to the spire: There are two tons of iron bands and rods in the steeple to strengthen it. The stairway leading to the top has about two hundred and seventy-five eight-inch steps. The first time the clock struck was at noon, December 12, 1879.

Hundreds of persons depend upon the clock of St. Mary's in the regulation of their daily pursuits. This large timepiece was built by the Seth Thomas Company. An inscription upon it tells us it was intended for an exhibit for the Paris Exposition.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL AS IT IS TODAY

St. Mary's Cathedral stands today as a memorial to the tireless energy of the late Rev. Father Anthony Smith. It was a most pretentious undertaking made possible by his good judgment and able leadership.

The site of the Cathedral was once a part of the tanyard of Stacy Potts. This particular enterprise was offered for sale as early as 1750.

EARLY CATHOLIC RESIDENTS

Who was the first Catholic settler in Trenton? Record does not tell. Perhaps this honor goes to Patrick Colvin, keeper of the lower ferry in Revolutionary days. Concerning him the Catholic Encyclopedia says "Patrick Colvin seems to have been the only Catholic in Trenton in 1776."

A Catholic authority tells us that the first mass had been celebrated here as early as 1799.

Giovanni Battista Sartori, a distinguished Italian, whose residence, "Rosy Hill," still stands at the end of Federal Street, is named as the lay founder of the Catholic Church in Trenton and the first Papal consul in the United States by Fanny Morton Peck (a pen name) in her interesting book, entitled "A Roman Consul of the Nineteenth Century." She further informs us that mass was said at the Sartori home in 1811 by Father Matthew Carr O. S. A., and again by Father Michael Hurley of the same order. The Sartori house is now used as an office by the American Bridge Company.

The year of 1814 witnessed the erection of the first Catholic Church on a lot at the corner of Lamberton and Market Streets which was purchased by Mr. Sartori and Captain John Hargous, another Catholic pioneer. The little edifice was of brick construction and in the graveyard adjoining it a number of the early worshippers were buried. We are told these bodies were reinterred in St. John's and in St. Francis' Cemeteries when the graveyard was abandoned.

THE UNITED STATES HOTEL

THE coach has arrived. The driver climbs from his high perch with pouch of mail. The horses are quickly being changed. Time is precious. There is an unloading and loading of bag and baggage. Passengers are hastily discharged and in turn, their places taken by others. Amid the noise of the slamming of doors and the prancing of the fresh horses, the driver regains his seat. A snap of the whip and they are off.

This is a passing glimpse of life at the old Indian Queen Tavern on North Warren Street, in the days when stage coach travel was at its height before the advent of the railroad. For many years the Indian Queen vied in prestige with the Trenton House and the American House, formerly "The Rising Sun Tavern." While its historical associations were not so renowned as either of the last two named public houses, it was, nevertheless, a popular resort for travelers.

The Indian Queen Tavern underwent a number of changes in its lifetime. This is evident from the advertisements and items published in the local newspapers. It also underwent a change in name and finally was known as the United States Hotel.

An amusing bit of satire concerning the Indian Queen Tavern is embodied in the advertisement of Erastus Emmons, a local jeweler, published in *The Trenton Federalist,* July 16, 1807. The advertisement in part follows:—

> "In repairing and putting into order, watches and clocks and timepieces, on the shortest notice, and most reasonable terms, at this old stand in Warren Street, Trenton, nearly opposite the Temple of Bacchus, vulgarly called the Indian Queen Tavern, where all orders in the line of watch repairing will be thankfully received and punctually executed.
>
> "So no more at present (as the girls end their love letters) from Yours 'till death.
>
> Erastus Emmons."

SOME EARLY AMUSEMENTS

Before the days of public halls in Trenton, the amusement places were the taverns. It was not uncommon for the small

THE UNITED STATES HOTEL—NORTH WARREN STREET

circus or traveling troupe to give performances in the spacious tavern yards. In the winter these showmen exhibited indoors. Apparently the most popular public house for the holding of these various exhibitions and performances was at "The Indian Queen" or "United States Hotel," as it was afterward known.

One of the early shows to give an exhibition at the place was the wax works of Davenport and Street in 1802. Three years later the invisible lady was the attraction and then came Cesar

READE'S TRENT THEATRE ON SITE OF THE HOTEL

Casa, of Europe, with his wonderful electrical machine. In 1807 Dawson and Potter gave an exhibition of their wax figures, and the following year the infant Roscius, a six-year-old oratorical prodigy, was advertised to perform there. In April, 1818, Messrs. Stowell and Bradley opened their exhibition of wax works at the house, and in subsequent years came a concert com-

pany, a performance of a "large and learned" elephant, an exhibition of an Egyptian Mummy, "3,000 years old," and a display of 150 rattlesnakes.

VISITED BY NOTABLES

Perhaps the first person of national prominence to be entertained at the United States Hotel was Vice-President Richard M. Johnson, who came to Trenton, Saturday, July 11, 1840. After making an address in the assembly chamber at the State House, he was taken to the old tavern where a banquet was tendered him by the city. Mayor Burroughs gave the welcoming address to which the distinguished guest ably replied. Before the affair closed 13 toasts were drunk in honor of the visitor, who left Trenton early in the evening. Delegations from New Brunswick, Newark, New York, Princeton and Philadelphia attended the reception.

In June, 1848, General Lewis Cass, then a presidential candidate, visited Trenton. A public reception was given to him at the United States Hotel where he lodged overnight.

When Louis Kossuth, the famous Hungarian patriot and orator, came to Trenton on Monday, April 19, 1852, he made his headquarters at the United States Hotel, formerly the Indian Queen. Here the noted visitor was accorded a reception by the citizens of the town and following the exchange of greetings and speechmaking, he appeared upon the balcony before a cheering concourse of people in Warren Street. Later, at a meeting held in the Front Street M. E. Church, now the German Catholic Church, he delivered a stirring address in behalf of the people of Hungary in their struggle against the despotism of Austria and Russia. Following the meeting, a dinner was held in his honor at the hotel. He stopped there overnight and the next morning left Trenton.

On July 13, 1853, President Franklin Pierce and members of his cabinet were given a reception at "The United States Hotel." The cabinet included Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War; Hon. Mr. Guthrie, Secretary of the Navy, and General Caleb Cushing, Attorney-General.

The United States Hotel at one time was a local stronghold for Democracy. Like other taverns of the city, it was the scene

of public and private meetings and the gathering place for the townsmen who discussed the topics of the day over their glasses of whiskey or mugs of ale.

EARLY HISTORY IS VAGUE

The early history of "The Indian Queen" is vague. Several names are mentioned in connection with it, but records are too confused and too indefinite to identify any one of them with the occupancy or the early ownership of the property. In one instance it is supposed that the tavern was originally the boarding house of a "Mrs. Joseph Brittian." In another instance it would appear that the building was for sale in 1779 as the house of a "Widow Brittian." Again in 1783 there is a property advertised for sale under the name of "Charity Brittian." Just how correctly these names or name can be associated with the "Indian Queen" is a question for considerable more investigation to decide. One thing is certain, however, that a "Mrs. Brittian" did live in the neighborhood. It is a matter of record that her house was ablaze at several different times in the big fire of 1772 and that in February, 1789, Trenton Masonic Lodge, No. 5, rented two rooms in the place for the holding of meetings for the sum of 8 pounds a year.

More definite information about the tavern begins to appear in the 1790's. It is found that the hostelry was offered for sale by John Polhemus in 1797. In the *Trenton Federalist,* December 3, 1818, the place was advertised for sale by the executors of Andrew Blackwell. It is described as a stone building, "two stories high, spacious yard with outbuildings," etc. Toward the close of 1829 or in the early part of 1830, the tavern was rebuilt and enlarged. In the spring of 1830 John David Green, tavern-keeper, removed his business to that stand. The following year the hostelry was advertised as "The Indian Queen and United States Hotel." Finally the name was shortened to United States Hotel.

One of the best known proprietors of the tavern was Joshua English. This gentlemen, in his day, extended a warm welcome to his patrons through the columns of the local press, calling attention to his "Commodious hotel in 'Main Street'" (now Warren Street), as being "furnished in a style inferior to none in the

city." However, style was not everything at this tavern for Joshua had other good things to offer that would need no advertising today. Continuing, the advertisement says "for the accommodation of travelers and boarders he has stocked it with choice liquors of the first quality; his larder will show an abundant supply of the best the market affords; the stable will be attended with sober and careful hostlers, etc.—"

The foregoing advertisement is not devoid of humor. Joshua makes it plainly understood that at his place a patron is a patron and a hostler is a hostler. A large stock of the best liquors for the one and praise for sobriety of the other.

Some others who were proprietors of "The Indian Queen" or United States Hotel were: Enoch Green, John Anderson, Peter Probasco, John Baker, Isaac Reeder, Edmund Burk, Peter Howell, Mrs. Francis Green, Michael Bashford, Charles Howell, Samuel Kay, Orrin B. Fausett, John McCarthy and Messrs. Early and McKelway.

THEATRE IS ERECTED

In January, 1903, The United States Hotel was purchased by the Taylor Opera House Company. The old building was demolished and the Trent Theatre was erected on the site.

THE POLICE STATIONS

TRENTON showed a marked growth in 1888, for it was in that year that the outlying districts of Chambersburg and Millham were annexed to the city. The annexation of these two boroughs naturally affected the local administrative branches. Among the changes that came about because of the additional territory and population was the improvement of the police department. The program obviously called for a larger and more efficient system of safeguarding more citizens and property.

The move made by the city fathers in this direction was first to divide the larger city into two police precincts and to abolish the old system with its single police unit and the old headquarters in the City Hall. The plan was to establish two separate police stations, each to be located in its own precinct.

Looking about for a building as a suitable place for a headquarters and station for the first precinct, the administrators finally decided upon the purchase of the Freeze property on Chancery Lane, then known as Chancery Street. This building was originally erected as a market house and for a number of years was used as such. The Freeze property was first leased by the city with an option to buy it, if it proved to be satisfactory for police purposes. After a number of changes had been made to the structure, the police office and jail on September 26, 1888, were removed to it from the old City Hall, where they had been located for half a century. The Chancery Street building proved to be an adequate location and the city purchased it for $18,000 from Samuel K. Wilson. This old building was used until a few years ago, when it was so entirely remodelled that it became practically a new station house.

FREEZE'S MARKET

Freeze's Market House, called by the press the "People's Market," was built by the late Samuel K. Wilson and the late Jacob

R. Freeze, a prominent financier of the city. Concerning the structure, Raum in his *History of Trenton* tells us:—

"The main building fronting on Chancery Street, is 50 by 100 feet, and is two stories high, with an extension in

HEADQUARTERS AND FIRST PRECINCT STATION IN 1911

the rear, 20 by 120 feet, and one story high. There are 119 meat and vegetable stalls and one restaurant.

"The main hall on the second floor is 50 by 85 feet with two ante-rooms, and a passageway and gallery on the south end about fifteen feet wide, and running entirely across the building. This hall will seat about 700 persons and is splendidly arranged for meetings of grand bodies of the various secret societies extant."

The plans for the structure were drawn by Henry E. Finch, who drew the plans for many of Trenton's larger buildings.

HEADQUARTERS AND FIRST PRECINCT STATION AS IT IS TODAY

The opening of the market took place on Saturday morning, April 30, 1870. The *Daily True American* of Monday morning, May 2, 1870, had the following to say:—

> "People's Market, Chancery Street, presented an attractive appearance Saturday morning. Stands were filled with meats, vegetables and flowers, and what was better, the mar-

THE SECOND PRECINCT STATION

ket was full of customers. Residents seemed highly pleased with the market, and many were the congratulations passed on the accommodations afforded for citizens for market purposes in that quarter."

THE SAME STATION AS IT APPEARS TODAY

The existence of three other markets in the city made business a little difficult for the "People's" establishment and it did not prosper. It was finally abandoned.

And now for a sidelight concerning an old-time amusement demonstration that was held in the building. The hall on the second floor, known as Freeze's Hall, later used as gymnasium by

the police, was the scene of many gatherings, dances, exhibitions and entertainments of various kinds. Here Charles Williams, alias the Manchester Antelope, one of the sleepless wonders of the time, gave an exhibition of endurance by keeping awake standing on his feet for one hundred hours, according to news items in the local press. The *Daily True American,* Monday, January 6, 1873, has the following to say at the conclusion of the feat:—

> "On Saturday night the great feat of remaining in a standing attitude, without sleep, was conducted at Freeze Hall. The young man who performed the feat when the task was concluded, was very much exhausted and had to be taken to Fort Raunsley Hotel in a carriage."

With the annexation of Chambersburg, the old "Borough Hall" on South Broad Street, the scene of many meetings and social events that figured in the development of Robert Chambers settlement, was made the station house for the second police precinct. This building was a center of activity for some time, serving as a meeting place for the governing body for the borough, offices for the officials, jail and fire headquarters. For several years the old Liberty Hose Company had its house in a frame structure that stood in the rear of the hall. This particular building was destroyed by fire in 1876.

The old Borough Hall, like the Freeze Market House, has undergone an extensive change and has been so modernized that it would be hardly recognizable to those who knew it as it was years ago.

It is significant to note the gradual evolution from the town jail or common lockup to a modern police station, that has taken place in Trenton.

One of the first places of confinement in Trenton, to which the early resident who strayed from the "straight and narrow path," became introduced was the jail of the old Courthouse of Hunterdon County which stood on South Warren Street. Trenton as a Borough Town under the Colonial charter (1745 to 1750) was empowered to make use of it until one could be erected.

Perhaps Trenton's first separate and distinct jail building came into existence in 1805 when the City Fathers were ousted out of the Courthouse by the Freeholders. Left without a place to confine the petty offenders of the city, the governing body met

the emergency by renting the smokehouse of a leading citizen. This unpretentious little structure probably served its new purpose up to the time of the erection of the Town House and Jail on Academy Street.

Following the erection of the City Hall, corner of Broad and State Streets, the jail was removed from the old building to the new. And here it remained until the establishment of the two police stations.

THE NEWBOLD OR RIBSAM CORNER

MANY Trentonians remember the site at the northeasterly corner of Front and Broad Streets, now occupied by the Ribsam Building, when it appeared more typical of a small town than a part of the business district of a growing city. Front Street, east of Broad Street, had very few stores, if any, and it was one of the thoroughfares that was very little traveled by vehicles. The automobile was yet to become a common vehicle upon the streets and traffic problems were nil.

Where the Ribsam Building now stands there were two dwellings, once the pride of earlier Trenton. Both houses were one time the property of Joshua Newbold, who occupied the one next to the corner. This was the older of the two dwellings. After Newbold's death when both houses were up for sale to settle the estate, they were described in the *New Jersey State Gazette* of February 17, 1837, over the name of Samuel Newbold, administrator. The upper dwelling, according to the advertisement, was built of stone, having a brick front, with "entry through and staircase, parlor on each side, five comfortable living rooms upstairs."

An intimate picture of the dwelling and its owner is given by Miss Mary Moore, in an article by John J. Cleary, published in the *Sunday Times-Advertiser,* October 8, 1922. Miss Moore is a surviving daughter of Rebecca Brearley (afterwards Mrs. Imlah Moore). The Brearleys, who were prominent in local history, occupied the corner house. Miss Moore has the following to say about the site:—

> "The original owners of the upper house were the Newbolds, the lot being about 50 feet front by 150 deep. The house was of stone and in front was a Colonial doorway with a small green strip of lawn separating it from the sidewalk. The lawn ran around the house on the south side into a walled garden in the rear, which was a point of special attractiveness. It was distinguished especially for the rare

plants set out there. There were many pomegranates, figs and cape jasmine and everything was kept trim and prim.

"Subsequently the lawn on the south side was built upon with a gain in tax ratables but a sad depreciation in æsthetic value. Of course in the earlier days, there was open space to the north also, for Trenton had lots of room, business not yet approaching as today on every spare foot of ground."

(1892) THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF BROAD AND FRONT STREETS

Some idea can be had of the corner house from the same advertisement of 1837, which describes the building as a three-story brick, "nearly new" and with a "large parlor, entry and staircase."

The advertisement throws considerable light upon the character of the dwellings in spite of its prosaic manner of explaining the features. Such phrases as "entry through" and "staircase" are significant, for it would appear that only the better designed dwellings of the town could boast of an open staircase with an entry leading clear through to the rear. Houses were more frequently built along simpler lines.

For many years these two dwellings were identified with early education in Trenton. Probably the first to open a school on the site was a Mrs. Watts, who advertised in the *Trenton Federalist*

THE RIBSAM BUILDING OCCUPIES THE SITE
This picture was taken March, 1926

September 28, 1807, her place of learning for young women at the house of Joshua Newbold. In the summer of 1819 the "Trenton Boarding School for Girls" occupied the place. Hannah Newbold and Caleb Richardson were the directors. In 1852 Miss Bradford conducted a school in the dwelling. Sometime before September, 1859, a member of the Brearley family opened a private school in the corner house.*

*Misses Rebecca and Louisa Brearley were identified with this institution.

When the photograph was taken illustrating this chapter the dwellings had lost nearly all of their attractiveness. Many changes had been made to the original and the places had succumbed to commercial activities. Lambert Hughes, tobacconist, conducted a shop at the corner and under the roof of the other dwelling was a Chinese laundry and the showrooms and workshop of David B. Naar, sign painter.

The Ribsam building was erected in the early '90's. A number of years ago the structure was the scene of one of the city's memorable down-town fires.

STATE STREET WEST OF CALHOUN

LESS than sixty years ago that part of Trenton above the intersection of Calhoun and State Streets was considered far from the centre of town. State Street, a short distance beyond this point, dwindled into a mere roadway leading through a section dotted with farms. Western Trenton, with its fine residences, was yet to be developed. Calhoun Street, a country lane passing through the little settlement of Camptown, was once a line of travel running to Beatty's ferry. Over it passed the Continentals before and after the Battle of Trenton. Prospect Street was a picturesque by-way leading over Prospect Hill, so-named for its pleasing panoramic view of the Delaware. Nearby was Moses Woods where the picnickers of a past generation made merry far from the bustle of town life.

It was the natural beauty of the Calhoun Street section that appealed to Isaac L. Pearson, who, in 1849, erected his retreat, "Glencairn," at the southwest corner of a beautiful tract running a considerable distance westward along the main thoroughfare. A local newspaper item, which appeared April 26, 1849, cites the digging of the foundations for Isaac L. Pearson's handsome new dwelling on the lot lately acquired by him at the southwest corner of West State Street and Calhoun's Lane. Nottman is named as the architect. Mr. Pearson and his son, Dr. Charles L. Pearson, were both lovers of rare trees and shrubbery and they spared no trouble nor expense in further beautifying the tract. A number of the specimens were imported and others were brought from various sections of the United States. Ginkgo trees, native of Japan, were planted on the land. There was a shellbark tree, a yew brought from England and a variety of locust known as the coffee-bean tree brought from Kentucky and there were also two European larch trees. River birches, red cedars, pawpaw trees, ironwoods, honey locusts, post locusts, butternut trees, persimmons, bilsteads, black gums and other varieties were on the tract. Some of these trees are standing today.

"Glencairn" was a substantial residence of stone construction. It was surrounded by a thick hemlock hedge which gave the place an air of seclusion. With the growth of the city westward, the Pearsons disposed of much of the land. John T. Stapler acquired the house and it was during his occupancy that the hedge

STATE STREET WEST OF CALHOUN IN HORSE CAR DAYS

was removed and other changes made to the place. The last occupant of the home was the late Charles Howell Cook, pottery manufacturer and dairy farmer, who sold it to Elwood A. Frost, organizer and developer of real estate. Mr. Cook lived in the residence for thirty-two years.

"Glencairn" witnessed the development of West State Street from a country roadway into a fine residential thoroughfare and then after giving more than three-quarters of a century of service as a home, it passed into history. Upon the site of the old retreat has arisen the "Glen Cairn Arms," an apartment house.

On a lot beyond the "Glen Cairn Arms" where once cows were turned to pasture, stands the headquarters of the Carteret Club, formerly the residence of the late Charles G. Roebling. The house was built by the widow of Charles Higginson who lived in it but a short time. Then it was rented as a private school. Afterwards, the late Colonel Washington A. Roebling rented the place for a year or two and finally it was purchased by the late Charles G. Roebling, who remodelled it as it is today.

STATE STREET WEST OF CALHOUN STREET AS IT APPEARS TODAY. THE EMLEN HOUSE IS SHOWN AT THE RIGHT

THE HORSE CAR LINE

In horse car days, the first line extended westerly on State Street and ended at a point just beyond Calhoun Street. There, on a lot on the northern side of the street, was the shed for the horses and a waiting room. The latter was destroyed by fire and then a horse car that had seen better days, was substituted in its place. When the line was extended to Prospect Street, which was a great innovation in those days, the old car waiting room was removed to that point.

Near the site of the horse car lot stands the old Emlen House, with its sturdy stone walls erected more than a century and a

quarter ago. For more than ninety years it was the home of the Emlen family. This landmark was purchased several years ago from John H. Emlen, of Avon, N. J., by Dr. Benjamin Vine, who had the place remodelled.

BELLVILLE MANSION

"Bellville," charming rural retreat of Colonial days and after, stood on a site near where Prospect Street meets State Street. While the glories of this mansion and its occupants are clouded in obscurity, at least the names of two men of title are associated with it—Sir John Sinclair (St. Clair) and "Lord" Stirling. Among others whose names are connected with it are Robert Lettis Hooper, John Rutherford and Joseph Warrell. Who erected "Bellville"? What noted persons were entertained there? What part did it play in Colonial and Revolutionary history? These are some of the questions that history does not seem to answer.

It seems that Joseph Warrell, Attorney-General of New Jersey, was the first occupant at "Bellville." According to records, he was living at the mansion in 1751 and at that time he claimed to have resided there for many years. In 1758 it was advertised for sale as "the seat of the Joseph Warrell, Esq., late deceased, etc."

In the summer of the same year Ebenezer Erskine, nephew of Robert Erskine, F. R. S., Geographer to the Army of the United States, died at the place.

Sir John Sinclair (St. Clair), who was a Baronet of Nova Scotia, is credited with having been an early occupant of this rural retreat. Concerning a person by that name, the Rev. Dr. John Hall in his *History of the First Presbyterian Church*, has the following to say:

> "There was a Sir John St. Clair in Braddock's army, who arrived in January, 1755; was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twenty-seventh Regiment and Deputy Quartermaster-General for all the forces in America. In 1762 he was made a full Colonel. On the list of the wounded at the defeat, July 9, 1755, he is put down as 'Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Dept. Q. M. Gen.' (Winthrop Sargent's *History of Braddock's Expedition*, Etc.). The death of Hon. Col. Sir John St. Clair, Bar't, is announced

in the newspapers of the day as having taken place at Elizabethtown, December, 1767. There was a Captain Rutherford 'with St. Clair in the Expedition.' "

Other versions are also given concerning this person.

"Lord" Stirling, who according to Hall was the owner of "Bellville" following the occupancy of Sir John Sinclair, has a

EMLEN HOUSE—PHOTO TAKEN JUNE 22, 1921

unique place in Revolutionary history for the reason that he was an American with a British title and a general in the so-called Rebel Army. "Lord" Stirling, William Alexander by name, claimed title to landed estates from the English crown, which that government would not acknowledge, but American lawyers, considered that he made good his title. General Washington considered him a very able soldier and always addressed him as "my lord." "Lord" Stirling took a leading part in the Battle of Trenton. He was a resident of Somerset County and commanded the New Jersey Continental line at the beginning of the conflict.

John Rutherford was later owner of the house which subsequently was occupied by Robert Lettis Hooper, the third, deputy quartermaster-general in 1778, a judge of Hunterdon County in

1784, and later vice-president of the state. He died July 30, 1797, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

In 1806 John Rutherford advertised it as his summer residence with three hundred and thirty acres on both sides of the river, and one of the lots between the new street and Calhoun's Lane, including Prospect Hill.

"GLENCAIRN," ORIGINALLY THE HOME OF ISAAC PEARSON

In an advertisement published in the *State Gazette,* December 16, 1840, the estate was offered for sale by Mary Rutherford. The advertisement describes it as the Green House Farm, lying between the River Road and the raceway of the Delaware Falls Company. It is supposed that the first ice house in New Jersey was built on the estate by Sir John St. Clair about 1760.

Bellville yearns for an outstanding event to feature it among the noteworthy Colonial mansions—a Revolutionary incident with plenty of action and color, a charming romance or a weird legend.

THE M'CALL-MONTGOMERY ESTATE

"Berryville," formerly the Montgomery estate with its fine trees, shrubbery and hedge-lined paths, was the unofficial name given to this particular tract, beginning at Prospect Street along the northerly side of State Street, when it was purchased by the late Patrick J. Berry, contractor and builder, and one time mem-

THE GLEN CAIRN ARMS APARTMENTS STAND ON THE SITE OF THE ORIGINAL "GLENCAIRN"

ber of Common Council. The first construction made upon the tract was of fourteen houses, and all in all, about sixty dwellings were erected.

The old mansion, which is said to have been built by Robert McCall, a wealthy bachelor, uncle of Henry McCall, who erected the mansion in Cadwalader Park, was a show place of the section. The original part is believed to have been erected about 1848. McCall sold it to Charles H. Higginson and following his death, Mrs. Higginson sold it to Augustus R. Montgomery in 1870. No doubt this tract was once a part of the Dickinson estate.

On the opposite side of the street a short distance westerly, lived the Dickinsons and later the Atterburys. The original mansion of the estate housed the Hessian mercenaries prior to the battle, and was the visiting place of President John Adams and noted persons in post Revolutionary days. The tract was another of Trenton's beauty spots. There wild flowers and shrubbery were to be found in abundance and in the grove known as "Atterbury's Woods" the Sunday schools of the town held their outings. The locality has lost much of its grandeur because of modern intrusion. Its Colonial and Revolutionary associations are a part of history. The country-garden, field and woodland have been squared off with avenues appropriately named: Atterbury, Colonial, Hermitage, Murray and Boudinot.

CADWALADER PLACE

The development of Cadwalader Place into an exclusive community for residences is yet fresh in the minds of many Trentonians. This tract, which comprised about one hundred and fifty acres, was for a century and a half the estate of the Cadwalader family. Dr. Thomas Cadwalader was the Chief Burgess of Trenton under the Colonial charter. The tract was laid out by Frederick Olmstead & Company, landscape gardeners, with roads, paths for pedestrians, sewers, gas and water in keeping with the plan mapped out by Edmund C. Hill, who was largely instrumental in its development.

"Greenwood," the summer mansion of Lambert Cadwalader, with its thirty rooms and spacious halls, was another of the notable show places of western Trenton. Like others of the section it lost its splendor and romance years ago. It was there that Lambert died in 1823 at the age of 81 years. The place was then left to his son, Thomas, who lived there for years.

In January, 1872, the greater part of "Greenwood" was destroyed by fire.

The volunteer firemen answered the call for assistance and here hangs a story that has been told and retold concerning this memorable blaze. The old mansion was noted for its stock of rare and old wines and for other liquid refreshments. The boys who handled the ladders and hose soon discovered the stock in the cellar and accordingly, so much time and attention was paid

to this particular portion of the place, that "Greenwood" itself suffered very badly. According to the recollections of one old-timer, some of the liquid stock was carted to the bank near the "sandy bottom" in Sanhican Creek as evidenced by the many broken bottles that destroyed the favorite swimming place for several years afterwards. Upon the ruins new "Greenwood" was erected. The residence stands on West State Street between Gouverneur and Parkside Avenues.

The gradual development of State Street westerly is mirrored in the paving records of the city. Sidewalks and curbing from the canal to Calhoun's Lane by ordinance, April 7, 1851, and from the lane to the waste weir (south side) July 19, 1854. On September 10, 1872, an ordinance was passed which called for the same on the north side from the land to Prospect Street. On December 1, 1885, the south side of the thoroughfare from the waste weir to Clark Fisher's lot (about Montgomery Place) was ordered curbed and paved. On March 21, 1891, the curbing and paving was extended from Montgomery Place to Murray Street. From this point the work was extended to the city line, July 20, 1892. Since this time further improvements have been made.

Lovers' Lane

Beyond the new Greenwood is Lovers' Lane, once the roadway leading to "Ellarslie," the original name of the Cadwalader Park mansion. This shaded lane , with its sentimental memories, is worthy of the recognition given to it in the following tribute taken from an article written by the late Col. Lewis Perrine and published sometime ago in the *Sunday Times-Advertiser:*—

> "Few Trenton swains and their sweethearts of the past forty years have not whispered words of love to each other while strolling in the sombre and romantic shade of Lovers' Lane, and there are few youngsters of the same period, now grown to mature manhood, who did not seek during their early days to hand down their names to fame by the questionable process of carving their initials on the trunks of the trees that line that pretty byway. Laid out straight as the crow flies from the Old Post Road (now West State Street) to the feeder of the Delaware and Raritan canal, and thence by a series of graceful curves but still bordered

> by growths of heavy shade trees, Lovers' Lane was for many years the avenue leading to beautiful "Ellarslie," the summer home of Henry McCall."

Bordering Lovers' Lane today is a baseball field and tennis courts, which are part of the park system. This tract was once a city skating rink. Opposite the ball diamond, where Junior High School, Number 3, now stands, was the Y. M. C. A. field, scene of many notable athletic events. Further out West State Street, in a section now built up, was the Tri-State Ball Park.

THE GREEN TREE INN

IF YOU wanted a stein of beer some fifty or sixty years ago you were almost sure to be gratified at a little tavern on North Broad Street. In its heyday this oasis for the thirsty found a fresh coolness in the hot summers from the shade of several large drooping willow trees. So it got its name the "Green Tree Inn."

THE GREEN TREE INN
From a drawing by J. A. Bensel.

Many a good draught of lager was tapped from the kegs at the Green Tree Inn. For a long period of years it was popular among beer-loving Germans and ale-drinking English of the "Head of Town." It semed to have been altogether managed by German proprietors and was probably a good place for an occasional counter luncheon of pigs' knuckles and sauerkraut. Everybody in North Trenton knew the Green Tree Inn.

The construction of the inn was typical of many of the buildings of early Trenton. It was a low two-story structure with shingle roof, the first floor being of rough stone and the second of frame. The entrance was on a level with the street and opened into a small bar-room with low-beamed, whitewashed ceiling. Under the rear part of the building was a large beer vault.

Among those who kept the Green Tree Inn were: Gottlieb Gaiser, his brother, Michael Gaiser, followed by Michael Staiger and Martin Koeffler, all members of well-known German families of the town.

The old inn ended its career forty years ago. At the time of its passing *The State Gazette,* July 22, 1880, published the following item:—

THE PRESENT SITE

> "An old old building, which probably was erected during Revolutionary times on Greene Street (Broad Street), just above the Feeder, and which has been familiarly known as the 'Old Green Tree,' is being torn down to make room for a handsome three-story brick structure, which is to be occupied as a dwelling and saloon. The owner of the property is Michael Staiger."

The Green Tree Inn was probably the same building mentioned in earlier local history as the Willow Tree Tavern, once the home of Thomas Cannon, a Continental soldier.

The saloon erected on the site of the Green Tree Inn took the same name. In after years the memory of the weeping willows that were responsible for the name was kept alive by two evergreens in large green tubs placed on each side of the entrance.

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